the AUSTRALIA v URUGUAY SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2007 TELSTRA STADIUM

# SOCCEROO

ISSUE 04 $10.00

AUSTRALIA

QANTAS

## SOCCEROOS V URUGUAY

# The Rematch!

## LUCAS NEILL

on why we'll go to Asia undefeated

PLUS...

THE YEAR IN GREEN & GOLD

A fan's eye view

NATHAN BURNS

The lad from NSW is one to watch

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR MATCH PROGRAMME

"The fact is, Powerade keeps the Socceroos hydrated on the field"

Graham Arnold
Socceroos Coach

©TM
AUSTRALIA
OFFICIAL SPORTS DRINK OF THE SOCCEROOS

© 2007 The Coca-Cola Company. 'Powerade' and the 'P' device are registered trade marks of The Coca-Cola Company.


# CONTENTS

## the SOCCEROO


5 MR FRANK LOWY AC
7 NSW PREMIER MORRIS IEMMA
9 GOLDEN MOMENTS
12 ON THE BALL NEWS
18 URUGUAY PROFILE
28 LUCAS NEILL
34 TONIGHT'S TEAMS
36 MEET THE QANTAS SOCCEROOS
45 ONE TO WATCH - NATHAN BURNS
46 MICHAEL THWAITE
50 BANGKOK CITY GUIDE
56 THE GREEN AND GOLD ARMY
61 THE HALF-TIME QUIZ
65 FAN PAGE
66 NUMBER CRUNCH

Telstra SUPPORTEROOS

**Join the race to become one of Lucas Neill's five Telstra Supporteroos.**

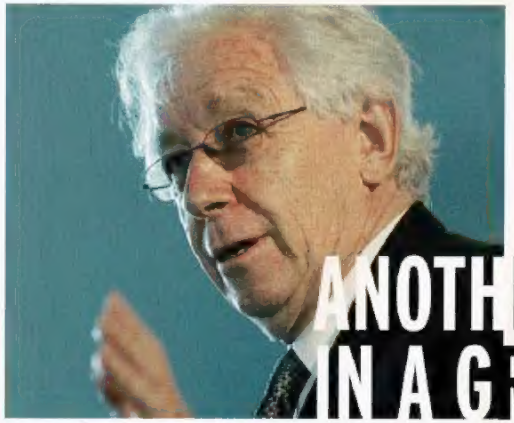
As proud sponsors of the Socceroos, Telstra is giving you the opportunity to score a football fan's dream holiday. Five people will form Lucas Neill's Telstra Supporteroos team and jet off with a guest to Thailand. To find out how to get on the team and for full terms and conditions, visit **beinvolved.telstra.com** today.

CLICK **beinvolved.telstra.com**

Things you need to know: Entries close 24 June. Open to Australian residents of various ages.

AUSTRALIA | Telstra OFFICIAL PARTNER


# FRANK LOWY AC



## ANOTHER CHAPTER IN A GREAT RIVALRY

**"The unforgettable memories provided on that night will come flooding back..."**

On behalf of the board of Football Federation Australia I would like to welcome everyone to Telstra Stadium for tonight's match between the Qantas Socceroos and Uruguay.

It is fitting that the national team returns to Telstra Stadium for the first time since qualifying for the 2006 FIFA World Cup with a match against our opponents on that memorable night, Uruguay.

Australian sport has many great rivalries and November 16, 2005 saw the Qantas Socceroos and Uruguay play out the latest chapter in what has become a significant occasion whenever the two sides meet.

The unforgettable memories provided on that night will come flooding back and we hope that tonight proves to be another special occasion as Australian fans get to farewell the team ahead of its next challenge.

Tonight's match signals the final chance for the players to push for selection in the squad that will compete at the 2007 AFC Asian Cup which gets under way in July.

It is Asian football's showpiece event and the first time we have had the honour of competing.

Our opponents tonight Uruguay are also preparing for their region's biggest football tournament the Copa America and we wish them all the best.

On behalf of the FFA, I want to thank you for your support and I am sure Graham Arnold and all the players will feel the tremendous backing that they received at last year's World Cup tonight, and when they take on Asia's best teams next month.

Best Wishes

Frank Lowy AC
Chairman
Football Federation Australia

?

WHERE'S THE NEXT

THINK YOU'RE THE NEXT LUCAS NEILL?

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AUSTRALIA'S NEXT FOOTBALL STAR, HEAD TO NIKEFOOTBALL.COM

# MORRIS IEMMA

## REPRISING A CLASSIC

**"Uruguay return to Telstra Stadium tonight to reprise that historic match."**

The night of November 16, 2005 is forever etched in Australian sporting history. On that magical night in Sydney, the Qantas Socceroos qualified for the FIFA World Cup finals for the first time in 32 years with a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Uruguay.

Uruguay return to Telstra Stadium tonight to reprise that historic match and write another chapter in their classic sporting rivalry with the Qantas Socceroos. Tonight's match is part of the NSW Government's partnership with Football Federation Australia to bring two Socceroos international matches (including 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers) to New South Wales up to and including 2009.

It is also an integral part of both teams' preparation for prestigious regional championships in June and July – the Asian Cup for the Qantas Socceroos and the Copa America for Uruguay. It is only fitting that Sydney, Australia's global city and football capital, will provide the stage for another memorable night in our football and sporting history.

Morris Iemma MP
Premier

AUSTRALIA

With so many features,
there's no stopping the new Elantra.

FROM ONLY $18,990*

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST 5 UNLIMITED KM WARRANTY

Largest interior in its class | Powerful 2.0L CVVT engine | Dual SRS airbags | Air conditioning | 4 wheel disc brakes with ABS
Power windows & mirrors | Remote keyless entry | Optional ESP & side airbags | CD/MP3 player with iPod® jack | Multilink rear suspension

HYUNDAI hyundai.com.au/elantra or call 1800 186 306

HMCA2764/SMD *Price for Elantra SX manual, excludes dealer delivery & govt. charges. $300 for metallic/mica paint. ESP & side airbags available with optional Protectz Pack $1,790 on SX model or as standard on some higher grade models. Unlimited kilometre warranty not applicable to vehicles used for rental and high mileage commercial purposes. Sale price offer expires 30 June 2007. Hyundai Motor Company Australia reserves the right to extend or change this offer at any time.

Drive your way

# 04

## CAHILL BRINGS AUSTRALIA BACK FROM THE DEAD BEFORE SCORING HIS AND AUSTRALIA'S SECOND-EVER WORLD CUP GOAL

The man to score Australia's first-ever World Cup goal was always going to go down in history. Who it was going to be though, was anyone's guess. And no one could ever have predicted the drama that would surround the goal; or the overwhelming feeling of relief felt around the nation and within Fritz Walter Stadion when the golden moment would finally arrive.

Within 26 minutes of Australia's first World Cup match following a 32-year absence; Australia was down a goal. With Mark Schwarzer getting tangled up with Japan's attackers, a dubious goal was scored from a drifted ball in from Japanese star Shunuke Nakamura. Australians were incredulous. Stunned. Silenced.

As the minutes ticked, it appeared that a successful Australian World Cup campaign was already in doubt. Then Guus Hiddink made his move; first bringing on Tim Cahill then Josh Kennedy.

Cahill's first goal couldn't come soon enough. With just six minutes remaining on the clock, the ball fatefully fell for Cahill in the box for him to desperately stab the ball home, through a maze of legs and into goal. We had equalised.

There were more heroics from the Everton star still to come though. On 89 minutes, Cahill got the ball and took a "swipe" from distance - hitting both posts - before going in. Australia, amazingly, had hit the lead and Japan was shell-shocked. Then, having just been on the field for 15 minutes, striker John Aloisi added a third... for good measure! **Richie Young**

At Star City you could WIN

$30,000

THIS YEAR

AND NEXT YEAR
AND NEXT YEAR
AND NEXT YEAR
AND NEXT YEAR
AND NEXT YEAR

Enter daily for your chance to win $30,000 a year for life plus a share of $500,000 worth of daily instant prizes.*

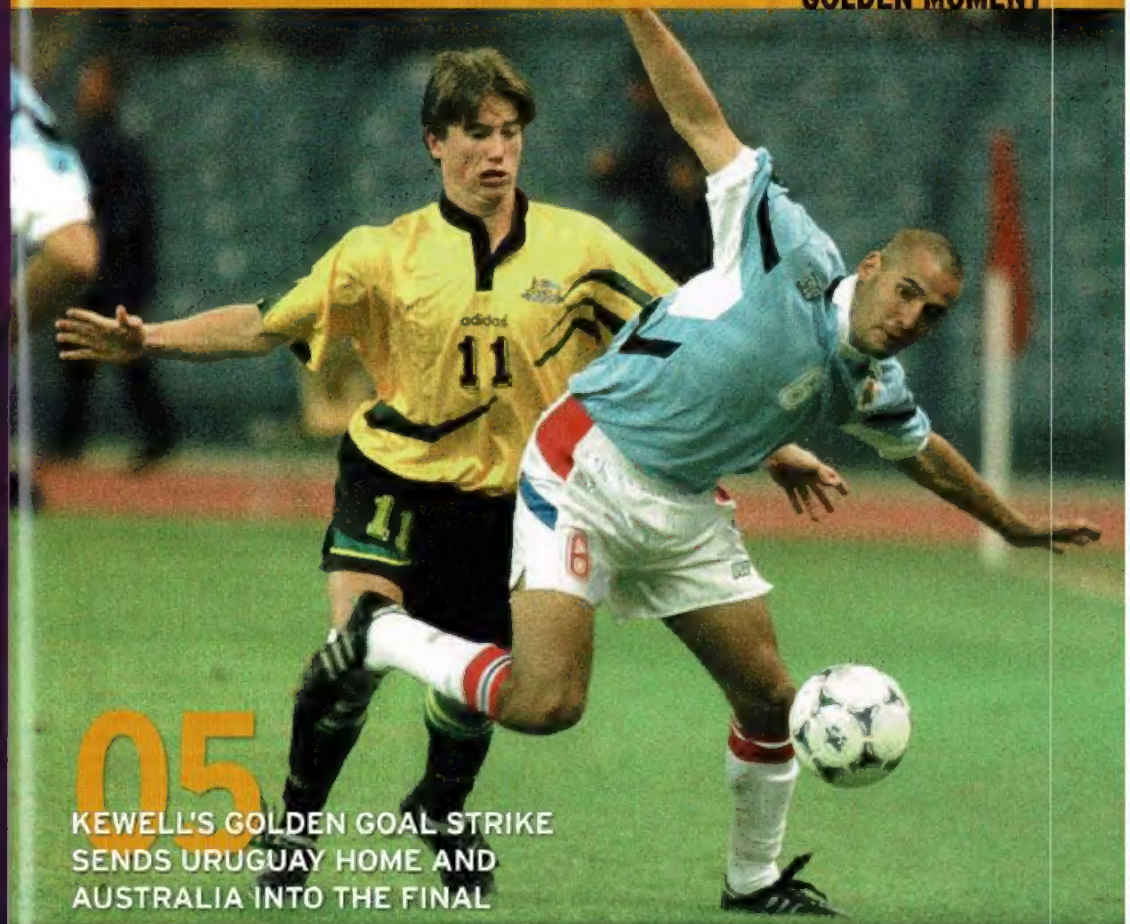
Visit Star City from 10 April to 28 June 2007 between 9am and 9pm and pick up a scratch card to win one of 40,000 instant prizes. Not to mention an entry coupon into the draw on 28 June for the chance to win $30,000 every year for life!†

Star City

To enter, you must be 18 years or over and a Total Star Rewards‡ member or Endeavour Room cardholder. You must be present at the draw at 9.30pm on 28 June 2007 with acceptable valid ID for the chance to win $30,000 a year for life. Only one entry per person per day is permitted.

*Terms and conditions apply. †Prize must be collected in person each year. Other conditions apply to the prize. Refer to conditions of entry for full details. See VIP Hosts or visit www.starcity.com.au for further details. ‡Membership to Total Star Rewards is FREE and available from a Total Star Rewards Centre. Guests must be aged 18 years or over to visit the casino. Is gambling a problem for you? G-line (NSW) is a counselling service CALL 1800 633 635. Player activity statements for slot machine play are available on request. Star City Pty Limited ABN 25 060 510 410. Authorised under NSW Permit No. TPL07/02538.





# 05

## KEWELL'S GOLDEN GOAL STRIKE SENDS URUGUAY HOME AND AUSTRALIA INTO THE FINAL

In 1997, Harry Kewell's life was a series of golden moments. After debuting for the Qantas Socceroos in '96, the wonderkid scored his first-ever national team goal in November 1997 in a World Cup qualifier in front of 120,000 Iranian fans in Tehran. And just to prove this wasn't a fluke, the then-Leeds man was on the scoresheet again in the return leg at the MCG.

As we all know, the result ended in tears for English coach Terry "Oz-Tel" Venables and his Aussies - but for young Harry, there was to be a third and dramatic golden moment just weeks later.

Against the odds, the Socceroos had picked themselves up from the devastation of missing out on France 98 to reach the semi-finals of the first official FIFA Confederations Cup. With stunning results including a 3-1 win over Mexico and a 0-0 draw against reigning World Champions Brazil, Uruguay was the opponent in Riyadh.

With familiar names such as Paolo Montero, Marcelo Zalayeta and Alvaro Recoba in the Uruguayan side, the Aussies did well to hold Victor Pua's La Celeste to a 0-0 draw after 90 minutes. But two minutes into golden goal extra time, Kewell struck after an incisive, free-flowing move from the Socceroos.

As Uruguay lost possession in the Aussie defensive third, the ball was played out of danger wide left and to the feet of Mark Viduka just over halfway. His first time lay-off found Josip Skoko charging through just inside the Uruguayan half.

With space opening up, Skoko laid the ball off wide right to Kewell who had drifted wide unnoticed by the blue-shirted defenders. He then arrowed inside towards the penalty box while Skoko continued his run, thus dragging a defender away.

Kewell went right then left and glided past a tired Uruguayan defender to set himself on his favourite left peg. Just outside the box, the youngster's low strike was aimed just right of keeper Claudio Flores, who failed to stop it as it went under him and into the goal.

A delirious Kewell ran towards the Aussie bench as Socceroos mobbed him on the side of the pitch. Australia was through to the final. A fresh-faced Kewell later told Saudi TV, "I'm proud of each and every one of the lads."

And we were proud too as our new Socceroo hero propelled us to a glamour final with Brazil. And even though a 10-man Aussie side lost easily in the final, Kewell's golden goal golden moment was something to savour after the heartbreak of Iran.

Aidan Ormond

# ON THE BALL

Football News

## BEIJING BECKONS

**Australia's Olympic squad are on the brink of qualifying for the 2008 tournament**

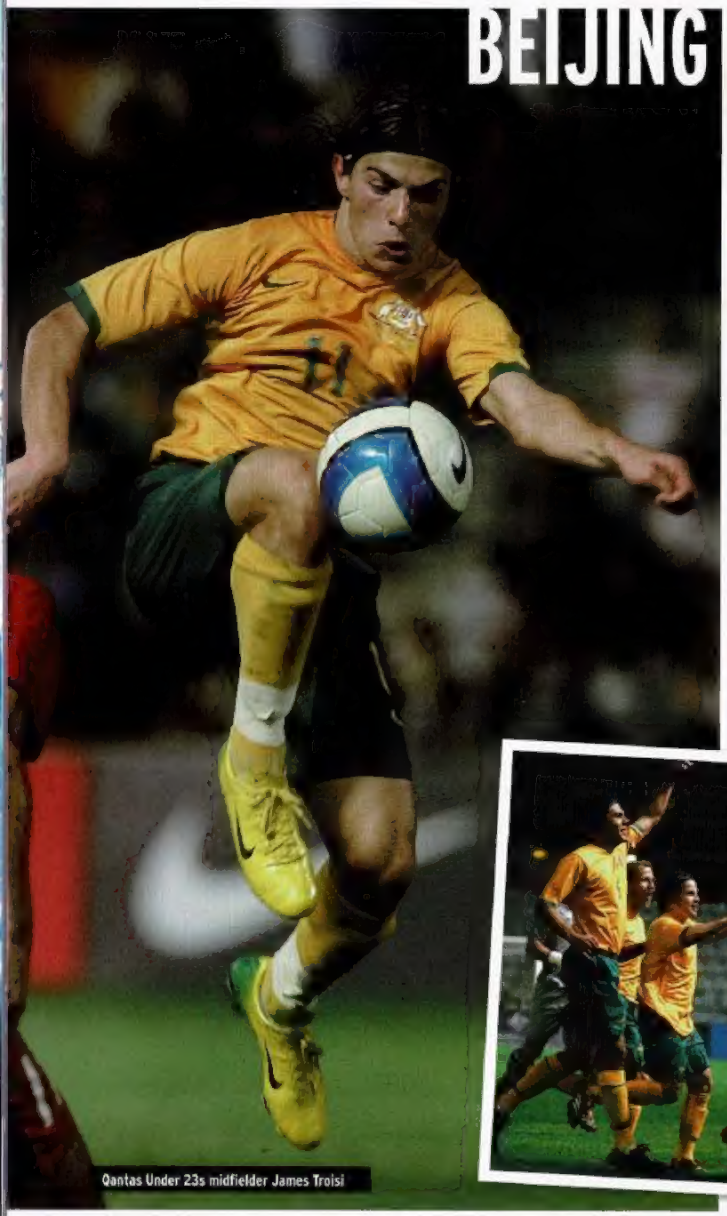
The Qantas Under 23s made another leap towards booking a place at the Beijing Olympics with a thrilling 3-1 win over Iran last month.

The May 16 match at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium was a tense affair, with both sides scoring in the opening minutes.

Australia's first goal, from English-based defender Aaron Downes, was followed by a Mark Bridge penalty to go ahead before the break. A second half goal from Adelaide junior James Troisi looked to have sealed the win, but Bridge's subsequent sending off made for an uneasy final 25 minutes as Australia hung onto their advantage.

Under 23s coach Rob Baan was delighted with his side's performance. "I think we showed what we can achieve when we have a complete squad of players and that is one of the reasons we won this game," he said.

The Olympic squad now need just one point from their away clash with Jordan on Wednesday (June 6) to seal second spot in Group D and progress to the final phase of qualification for the 2008 tournament.



Qantas Under 23s midfielder James Troisi

## ASIAN CUP '07

Tonight is the last international match the Qantas Socceroos will play on home soil before taking on Asia's finest in the AFC Asian Cup 2007 in just over a month.

The three-week tournament runs from July 7-July 29, and for the first time will be played in not one but four countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Australia will be based in the Thai capital Bangkok for their matches against Group A opponents Iraq, Oman and Thailand. They play their first match, against Oman, on Sunday July 8, then meet Iraq on July 13 and joint-hosts Thailand on July 16.

Socceroo Lucas Neill has spoken about his hopes for success in Asia, saying Australia have maintained their momentum since reaching the second round of the 2006 World Cup. "I really think that we've got a team and a squad that can handle the conditions. Enough of us have played on the big stage now that we won't be intimidated by the teams that we're going to play against," he said.

How many of the players appearing tonight will be selected for Australia's first real test in Asia remains to be seen. But fringe players will be aware that this is their last opportunity to shine before the Asian Cup squad is announced.

See page 50 for *The Socceroo*'s Bangkok City Guide for travelling Australia fans.

**FOX SPORTS**

Fox Sports has confirmed that it will be screening every match of the AFC Asian Cup 2007 tournament.

It has extended its coverage to include all 24 matches of the group stages, the four quarter finals, both semis, the third/fourth place playoff and the final. Twenty-eight of the 32 matches will be shown live.

Australia's group matches kick off at the following times:
Sunday July 8 – v Oman (7.30pm)
Friday July 13 – v Iraq (7.30pm)
Monday July 16 – v Thailand (10pm)

## HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE'S STAR SIGNINGS

Three big-name signings are set to spice up the action when season three of the Hyundai A-League kicks off on August 24.

Just two days after blitzing the 2007 Grand Final in February, newly-crowned champions Melbourne Victory announced that Qantas Socceroos defender Ljubo Milicevic would be joining them for the 2007/08 season.

Milicevic, 26, returns to Australia after five years in Switzerland, during which time he saw action in UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup action.

His homecoming has delighted Victory coach Ernie Merrick, who worked with Milicevic when he was a student at the VIS. "Ljubo is an outstanding player with excellent technical ability who will be a terrific addition to our squad. He's a modern player with enough versatility to play in a variety of positions," said Merrick. "He is a composed and assured player who brings a level head, as well as an imposing physique, to our team."

The defender said he was happy to be playing for Victory, having stayed in touch with Merrick during his time overseas. "With all the success of the Hyundai A-League and the opportunity to play in front of family and friends again, I thought why not?" he said.

Queensland coach Frank Farina has boosted the Roar's midfield with the signing of former Leicester City and Manchester City star Danny Tiatto. Farina said the side's younger players will benefit from 33-year-old Tiatto's experience from more than a decade of playing overseas.

"In Danny we have a player that leads by example and he will drive the players around him with his enthusiasm for the game," said Farina. "Danny has been at the top of my list for a while and as soon as we knew he was interested and available we acted quickly to sign him."

Season two finalists Adelaide United have snapped up striker Paul Agostino, who returns home after 15 years plying his trade in Europe, most recently with German outfit TSV 1860 Munich.

United coach Aurelio Vidmar sees Agostino, 31, as "a fantastic acquisition for the club" adding, "with his experience and knowledge he will be a valuable asset."

The 2007/8 season begins with the Central Coast Mariners travelling to Sydney on Friday August 24. On Saturday 25th, Queensland host Adelaide, and the Sunday sees fledgling New Zealand side Wellington Phoenix travel to Melbourne Victory and Perth Glory host the Newcastle Jets.

**Did you know..?** The Asian Cup began in 1956 and was hosted by Hong Kong with the Korea Republic winning the tournament • Lucas Neill's father, Eddie, is from Northern Ireland and played for Belfast sides Linfield Swifts, Cliftonville and Brantwood • The Qantas Under 23s best performances at the Olympics: fourth place in 1992

# BE A TELSTRA SUPPORTEROO!

**Telstra are calling on Australia fans to enter the race for a spot in Lucas Neill's Telstra 'Supporteroos' squad**

Socceroo Lucas Neill will hand-pick five lucky fans to win a dream holiday in Telstra's 'Supporteroo' competition.

The five winners will jet off to Thailand to cheer on the Qantas Socceroos in Asia in a prize that includes flights, accommodation, breakfast and transfers. If you're a Telstra customer you'll score $1000 spending money too.

The competition is divided into five categories, with places for a Fanatic (a fan who lives and breathes football), a Pro (local footy legend), an Expert (stats guru), Behind-the-Scenes Supporter (unsung local club hero) and a Rookie (young aspiring player).

The entry criteria is different for each category so to find out which one you fit into and how to enter the competition visit www.beinvolved.telstra.com.au. The closing date is June 24.

# SONY SIGNS FFA PARTNER DEAL

Sony Australia and Football Federation Australia have come together to make Sony an official supplier of the FFA and its national teams.

The new partnership, announced last month, runs through to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and gives the electronics giant access to Australia players, games, branding and merchandise. Sony has also linked up with Socceroo star Tim Cahill, who will feature in Sony Australia promotions.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley welcomed the announcement. "The FFA is delighted to add another global company to its prestigious list of partners and suppliers," he said. "Sony has a tremendous partnership with football worldwide and we look forward to working with Sony on programs to develop football in Australia."

Carl Rose, Sony Australia's Managing Director said: "With the popularity of football in Australia going from strength to strength following the excellent performance of the Socceroos at the World Cup 2006, we're proud to become an official football partner here in Australia."

The Sony Corporation already has an existing partnership with world football governing body FIFA.

# NAB SHOWS SOCCEROOS THE RIGHT CARD

From Kalgoorlie to Kaniva, Longreach to Launceston, NAB branches throughout the country are getting behind the Socceroos during the month of June.

As excitement mounts in the lead up to the Asian Cup, over 700 NAB branches around the nation will be proudly wearing the green and gold. The Socceroos will be starring in the latest NAB Credit Card campaign, offering a great low rate on a range of cards throughout June and July. Watch out for the campaign and join NAB in backing the Socceroos on their road to Asia.

TED BAKER
LONDON

British fashion label Ted Baker has expanded it's involvement with Australian football in a new deal which incorporates the Matildas.

Ted Baker first linked up with FFA to kit out the Qantas Socceroos for their 2006 FIFA World Cup campaign. It will now dress the Matildas for all their international matches, including the FIFA Women's World Cup this September. The men will continue to sport Ted Baker suits during the AFC Asian Cup 2007.

The brand launched in Australia in 2003, and can be found in selected David Jones stores and key independents nationwide.





# MATILDAS IN CONTROL

The Matildas are on course to qualify for their third straight Olympic Games with two big wins putting them in contention to represent the AFC in Beijing next year.

Australia's women are currently sitting top of their group, ahead of Asia's highest ranking side DPR Korea (North Korea) on goal difference after beating Hong Kong 15-0 and Chinese Taipei 10-0 in April.

Australia play a crucial qualifier against the Koreans early on the morning of June 3, with the knowledge that this match, and the return leg at Coffs Harbour on June 10, will decide who makes it to Beijing.

The Matildas have already won a place in the 16-nation 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China, where they'll face their Group C opposition Norway, Canada and Ghana.

Matildas coach Tom Sermanni is cautiously optimistic about Australia's chances of progressing past the group stage. "I don't think there is a great deal of difference between all the teams. To be honest Canada and Norway are very similar in style; closely matched in their ability. They are well structured, physically tough and very competitive," he said.

"Ghana are different in that they are a team that will be quick skilful, but very unpredictable."

The tournament runs from September 10-30, with the Matilda's opening match against Ghana in Hangzhou on September 12. They meet Norway on the 15th ahead of their final group match against Canada on the 19th. The top two teams in each group go through to the quarter finals.

The Matildas' recent performances have helped them reach a best-ever 14th in the FIFA World rankings.

Matildas striker Sarah Walsh

Zurich is proud to support football in Australia as an Official Partner of the Hyundai A-League

A-LEAGUE

**We provide protection for your business.**

At Zurich, we understand that things can go wrong just when you least expect it. We offer General Insurance, Life Insurance and Investments solutions to help grow and protect your business.

www.zurich.com.au

*Because change happenz.*™

ZURICH®

Consider your financial needs and speak to your financial adviser or general insurance broker.

DRAN-000267-2007 ZU08481 SCROFPS



# A NEW ERA IN COACHING

Three former Australia captains were among the first to benefit from FFA's new coach education initiative last month, undertaking the first stage of the Advanced Pathway for aspiring coaches.

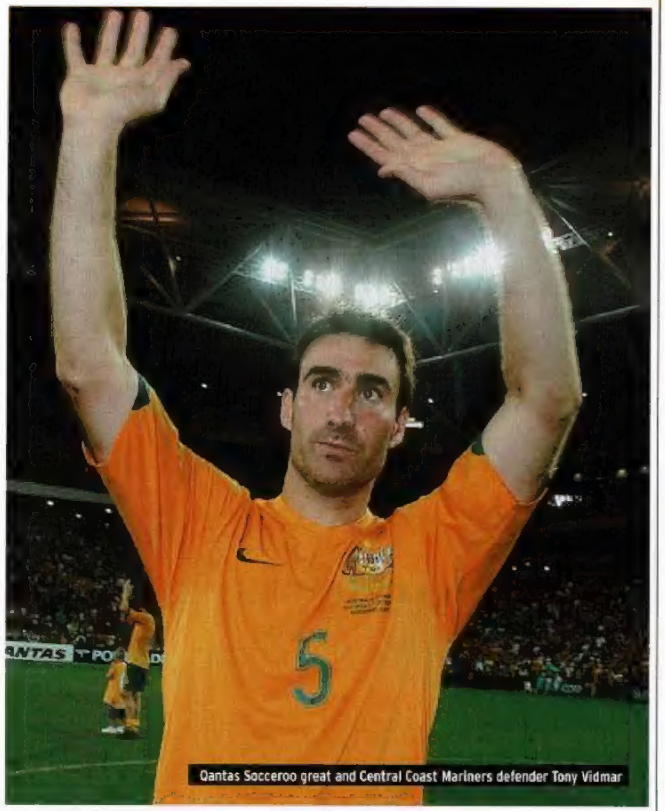
Tony Vidmar, Kevin Muscat and Alex Tobin, ex-Socceroos Ian Gray and Ante Milicic, Central Coast Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna and Hyundai A-League stars Stuart McLaren, Andre Gumprecht and Wayne O'Sullivan were among 17 candidates on the inaugural B Certificate coaching course.

Launched in January 2007, the program allows would-be coaches to train on home soil rather than having to travel overseas. This has only become possible since Australia became a member of the AFC.

"This is the first of FFA's new Advanced Coaching Courses, which are under the auspices of the AFC," said Kelly Cross, FFA National Coach Education Manager.

"In the past, Australian coaches had to travel to Europe, or elsewhere, for such high-level courses. These AFC-endorsed courses are recognised as equivalent to those conducted by UEFA."

Candidates who pass the B Certificate can progress to the higher-level A Certificate and finally the Pro Diploma.



Qantas Socceroo great and Central Coast Mariners defender Tony Vidmar

# WIN THE ULTIMATE SUPPORTER TRIP WITH QANTAS

*FourFourTwo* magazine and Qantas are offering a lucky Qantas Socceroos fan and a very lucky friend, the chance to win the ultimate football supporter's experience.

Up for grabs is a five-night trip to Bangkok to support the Qantas Socceroos as they take on Iraq and Thailand in their quest for Asian glory next month.

Qantas have also teamed up with the Green and Gold Army, Nike and Samsung to provide bonus prizes to make the trip that extra bit special.

The winners will be given their own personalised Qantas Socceroos jerseys courtesy of Nike and will be invited to Green and Gold Army functions. Samsung are throwing in a DV Camcorder to record the best bits of the holiday, and two Samsung MP3 players.

To enter, go to the website: www.au.fourfourtwo.com/qantas-trip and answer the questions on the 'Sixty Seconds with Qantas Socceroos' video clips featuring Lucas Neill, Mark Viduka, Tim Cahill and Vince Grella.

Entrants must be over 18 and be free to travel between July 12 and July 17. The closing date for entries is June 15. For details of the full prize, and the terms and conditions, see the website.

# Football's Original Champions

**Winner of the very first World Cup, Uruguay has a proud footballing history and is among the sports' most successful nations**

by Jackson Gothe-Snape

THE QANTAS SOCCEROOS host Uruguay tonight in a blue ribbon international as part of their preparations for next month's Asian Cup. Though most Aussie fans best remember Uruguay from the 2001 and 2005 FIFA World Cup play-offs, the long footballing history of these proud South Americans provides an epic tale of sporting fortune's ebbs and flows. While Australia may be enjoying significant recent achievements, Uruguay's story reminds us that success should never be taken lightly.

## The Sky Blues' Colourful Past

Uruguay was the world's first football powerhouse, with a record of achievements that to this day still dwarfs those of supposed heavies Spain, England or the Netherlands.

The highlights were perhaps its two victorious World Cup campaigns, gained in its first two attempts in the competition. Indeed, only the world's recognised elite in Brazil, Italy and Germany have been World Cup champions on more occasions than Uruguay. In addition, no nation has won South America's continental Copa America competition more times. Uruguay's 14 tournament victories are double that of Brazil!

Beyond mere trophies though, Uruguay's footballing principles of flair, grace and determination provide it with a pedigree few others can match. The country led the passing football revolution that modernised the game in the first half of the 20th century. The new approach overcame the Europeans' athleticism with skill and teamwork, introducing the age old dichotomy of football philosophies - might versus technique. Uruguayan players have historically been regular performers in the best leagues of both South America and Europe, and continue to call top clubs in Italy, Spain, France and Germany their employers.

Despite the country's impressive track record, since the glorious era of the 1920s and '30s Uruguay's achievements have plateaued. The nation has failed to qualify for the final tournament in five of the last eight World Cup campaigns. In the last 40 years, the greatest source of pride for the nation is its three Copa Americas, a modest achievement relative to its former success. The question must be asked: Can Uruguay still stand proudly alongside its prestigious neighbours Brazil and Argentina in footballing terms? Or, are "the Charruas" the nation that football left behind?

Uruguay prior to the World Cup qualifier against Australia at Sydney's Telstra Stadium in November 2005

**"The early influence of Uruguay is unquestionable. In the first half of the 20th century, the nation turned football into a global contest."**

## Punching Above Its Weight

The early influence of Uruguay on football is unquestionable. In the first half of the 20th century, the nation turned football into a global contest. A European monopoly on success, thanks to the early establishment of the game in nations like Britain and Italy, was avoided as Uruguay took home Olympic gold medals from Paris and Amsterdam in the 1920s. With World Cup victories in 1930 and 1950 and seven of the first 13 Copa America titles, not only did Uruguay prevent European dominance, it could claim the title of football's most successful nation.

But that was in 1950. After more than half a century of far more muted performances, Uruguay, a cynic might suggest, has found a more fitting place

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Full name:** Asociación Uruguaya de Fútbol

**Nickname:** Charrúas/La Celeste

**Most caps:** Rodolfo Rodriguez (78)

**Top scorer:** Héctor Scarone (31)

**Home stadium:** Estadio Centenario

**FIFA ranking** (as of May): 23

**Highest FIFA ranking:** 14 (May 1994)

**Lowest FIFA ranking:** 76 (December 1998)

in world football. As first neighbours Brazil and Argentina claimed the mantle of South American heavyweights, then nations such as Paraguay and Colombia pushed it further down the regional pecking order, memories of Uruguay's rich traditions have been eroded.

When Australia lined up against Uruguay in 2005 to decide the last place at Germany's World Cup finals, it was a statistical David vs Goliath. While in footballing terms Australia may have been the narrow underdogs, they had numbers stacked on their side. Australia, a leader in world living standards and economy, drew their squad from a population of more than 20 million. Conversely Uruguay, a mere blip on the global economic and political map, is dwarfed regionally by Argentina, which has more than 10 times, and Brazil, which has closer to 100 times Uruguay's three and a half million people. Even its near-neighbours Paraguay and Bolivia can both claim more than twice Uruguay's inhabitants.

No team above Uruguay on FIFA's world rankings, 23rd at time of writing, has a smaller population!

## Enzo, Ondino and Co.

For Uruguay to be able to compete on the international stage as well as it does is a minor miracle. This is the

# URUGUAY: Men to Watch

### THE COACH

Oscar Tabarez was handed the reigns of his native Uruguay early last year for the second time. His first stint culminated in the country's appearance at the 1990 World Cup finals, where Uruguay snuck through to the second round before losing to hosts Italy. Tabarez made his name in South America, finding success in Argentina with Boca Juniors and at home with Penarol. His reputation even led him to Italy, where after a moderately successful stint with Cagliari he was surprisingly given the coaching post at giants AC Milan in 1996. He failed to find success there though, and has enjoyed sporadic successes over the last decade. Upon taking his post and queried about whether fifth place in South America was an accurate reflection on Uruguay's current status, he said: "To get myself deeply involved in saying that it is not has no sense. It's real. We won't be changing it on account of the history Uruguayan football has. If it is not our place, we'll have to prove it with facts. Our first objective is to go to the 2010 World Cup."

### THE ENFORCER

Diego Lugano is an imposing central defender who is recognised as one of South America's best. In 2005 he starred as his Brazilian club São Paulo beat the likes of English side Liverpool in the Club World Championship, establishing his reputation as South America's foremost defender. Since then, despite being linked to clubs in Italy, Spain and England, he chose to move to Fenerbahce in Turkey. Still only 26, he looks to be a vital cog in the Uruguay side for much of the next decade. If he continues improving, there is no doubt he will be a star at a top European club within three years.

### THE WINDMILL

Though Carlos Diogo has played for Real Madrid, and Australians will remember him from 2005's play-off, he is perhaps best known for the global coverage he received earlier this year from a scuffle with Sevilla's Luis Fabiano during a match for his new club Real Zaragoza. The incident hit news bulletins for the unorthodox style of combat Diogo and Fabiano adopted in the clash. There were no fists, elbows, kicks or even head butts. Instead, both men seemed content impersonating either a windmill or a very playful monkey. With arms flailing wildly in the air, the only thing hurt was their disciplinary record – both players were socked with five match bans.

### THE NEARLY-MAN

Alvaro Recoba's Serie A debut was the best Italy had ever seen. Plucked from relative obscurity playing for Nacional in Uruguay in 1997, he made his bow for Inter Milan against Brescia. A 40-metre thunderbolt and polished free-kick gave him a brace which was enough to earn his side a 2-1 win. Though he took a couple of years to establish himself at Inter, he was recognised at the dawn of the new millennium as possibly the world's best player (and certainly one of the best paid). Since then however his reputation has developed into that of a nearly-man. Significantly, only since Recoba has dropped back onto the fringe of the Inter first team have the club been able to break its Serie A hoodoo which stretched back to the 1980s, winning the last two league titles.

### THE NEXT BIG THING

Having only recently turned 20, Edison Cavani looks set to claim the mantle of Uruguay's next superstar. While he has not been called up tonight, it's only a matter of time before he makes his international debut. In January, he top scored at the South American U/20 Championships, earning a transfer to Mark Bresciano's Italian club Palermo. On his debut he scored within 15 minutes of coming off the bench, an outrageous volley from just outside the top corner of the box. Some promising performances followed, alongside the customary transfer links with the likes of Real Madrid. Remember the name!

AUSTRALIA

**Fly your colours for club and country by purchasing your supporters flags from the outlets listed below.**

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

**Football Federation Australia**
www.footballaustralia.com.au

**Hyundai A-League**
www.a-league.com.au

**A-League Clubs**
Stadium Concessions,
Club Stores

**Wholesale enquiries**
DNS Supply Pty Ltd
Tel 02 9948 2127

**Airport Stores**
Australian Way, Newslink Stores,
Body Map

**Sports Chains**
Rebel Sport, Sportspower Stores,
Sports Co, Sportscene

**NSW**
Mick Simmons - City
Footy Shop - Darling Harbour
Peter Wynns Score - Parramatta
Locker Room - Cardiff
Soccer City - Kingsgrove
Soccer Wearhouse Glenwood
All Round Cricket and Sport - Penrith
Supporters World - Wollongong

**Victoria**
Melbourne Sports Depot - City
Soccer Fever - Richmond
Fifth Avenue - City

**Queensland**
Soccer World - Lutwyche
Soccer Works - Buddina
Team Effort - Southport
Supporter Heaven - Geebung

**ACT**
Jerseys for Work - Weston

**Western Australia**
Bobby 10 Football World
City and suburbs
Trailblazers - Albany
London Court Sports - City

**South Australia**
Sports Centre - Hindmarsh
Gday Gifts - City

All Australia and A-League flags proudly manufactured under licence by Fabric (Australia) Pty Ltd. Tel: 02 9922 5388.




# URUGUAY

product of the pride and passion the country has for its football. The sport is at the very heart of the Uruguayan social fabric. Ondino Viera, a former national team player and manager for Uruguay has been quoted as saying, "Other countries have their history, Uruguay has its football." The country produces more top players on a per capita basis than any other country on earth.

Throughout history, Uruguay has provided some of football's special talents. Uruguayans today feature in some of the top clubs in the world, including Inter Milan, Villareal, Schalke, Monaco and Sporting Lisbon. They include current names such as Alvaro Recoba, only recently one of football's highest paid stars, and 2005 European Golden Boot winner Diego Forlan.

Enzo Francescoli, upon whom French superstar Zinedine Zidane modelled his game (and after whom Zidane even named a son), lit up Italian football in the early 1990s, while the names of Schiaffino and Varela from 1950, and Nasazzi and Cea from 1930 are remembered not only by Montevideo's grandfathers and great grandfathers,

## COPA AMERICA VICTORIES

**Argentina (14)**
1921, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1937, 1941, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1991, 1993

**Uruguay (14)**
1916, 1917, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1935, 1942, 1956, 1959, 1967, 1983, 1987, 1995

**Brazil (7)**
1919, 1922, 1949, 1989, 1997, 1999, 2004

**Paraguay (2)**
1953, 1979

**Peru (2)**
1939, 1975

**Bolivia (1)**
1963

**Colombia (1)**
2001

## SWEATING THE HIGHEST VALUES

Having won the inaugural World Cup in 1930, Uruguay refused to participate in 1934 because of the Europeans' failure to attend its home tournament. Again, in 1938, Uruguay refused to travel due to FIFA's decision for the tournament to be hosted in Europe. World War II and its aftermath meant no 1942 and 1946 tournaments, so the 1950 World Cup in Brazil was Uruguay's first World Cup since their 1930 victory. In the unique final four-team round robin to decide the champion, Uruguay limped to a win and a draw against Sweden and Spain – teams past which Brazil had already knocked 13 goals.

In the final match in front of 200,000 fans in Rio's Maracana, Uruguay, needing a victory, found themselves 1-0 down with less than a half to play. Somehow Uruguay managed to turn the match around however, scoring what would be the winner with 11 minutes remaining. In 2003, the Uruguayan government declared the boots and shirt of the team's 1950 captain Obdulio Varela historical monuments, saying: "The football boots which the 'Black Chief' used on this mythical field for the Uruguayans, and the shirt which he sweated as he pulled off the greatest sporting achievement, must remain in Uruguay and be exhibited as an example of its people's highest values."

but by football fans across the world.

The competitiveness of the recent clashes between tonight's two teams has meant that Australians may not have had the chance to afford Uruguay's football the appreciation it deserves. Tonight is an opportunity to change that.

It isn't the Olympic golds, the World Cup triumphs or the Copa Americas that provide Uruguay the basis on which to stand alongside the game's greatest. Uruguay will be one of the world's foremost footballing nations as long its players and supporters continue to invest all their heart and soul into "La Celeste". Tonight, it is a privilege to welcome the latest in the line of the Uruguayan football dynasty to Sydney, and wish them well for their 2007 Copa America campaign, which begins in Venezuela later this month. ■

## HOST WITH THE MOST

Uruguay's victory in the 1930 World Cup was aided by several factors, the most obvious being that it was the host! The first World Cup tournament fell in the midst of the Great Depression. European teams were reluctant to make the long sea voyage to South America. Without the endeavours of Jules Rimet, FIFA president at the time and the man whose name adorns the World Cup trophy, there may not have been a single European team involved. Just two months before the tournament, none had agreed to participate. Eventually, Belgium, France, Romania and Yugoslavia all made the trip down, yet none were to overcome the hosts. The final was played in front of 100,000 fans in Montevideo's Estadio Centenario, built especially for the tournament and still in use today. Coming back from 2-1 down, Uruguay rallied against Argentina in the final to win 4-2.



REBEL SPORT

THE SOCCEROOS TAKE ON ASIA

7th July to the 29th July, 2007.
Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia

AUSTRALIA

$129.99 ea
Nike Socceroos Home & Away Jerseys
Also available: Junior sizes $99.99ea

$5
$5
$2

$19.99
Socceroos Scarf
Also available: Uruguay Scarf $19.99

50¢
Nike Socceroos ID Wristband
Pack of two

$24.99
Nike Total 90 Pitch Australia Soccer Ball

REBEL SPORT EXCLUSIVE
$299.99
Nike Total 90 Laser FG
As worn by Socceroos Jason Culina and John Aloisi.

$159.99
Nike Total 90 Supreme FG

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
Find an identical item cheaper at any other retailer in Australia and we'll beat it by 10%*

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE VISIT
www.rebelsport.com.au

Prices valid until 31/07/07 unless sold out. Not all products available in all stores. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount card. *T Terms and conditions apply, see in store for details.

REBEL SPORT

# A Great Football Rivalry

**Australia should be honoured to share a healthy rivalry with one of international football's most distinguished nations**

By Aidan Ormond

MENTION THIS illustrious South American nation and Qantas Socceroo fans burst with stories of heaven and heartbreak. Heaven? The night of November 16, 2005 in Sydney is imprinted into the DNA of Green and Gold supporters. Heartbreak? November 25, 2001, where our World Cup hopes withered in the white hot passion of Montevideo's Estadio Centenario.

These two chapters alone make Australia vs Uruguay a blockbuster rivalry, but the story goes back much further than six years. In fact, you can trace it back to April 1974...

With both Australia (for the first time) and Uruguay already qualified for the 1974 West Germany World Cup, a two-match tour by La Celeste was meant to be the ideal warm-up. Sadly for Socceroo striker Ray Baartz, it was to end in shattering agony.

After a 0-0 draw in Melbourne, tempers frayed as the Socceroos won a spiteful second match in Sydney 2-0. Baartz was felled by a karate chop to the neck by Uruguayan defender Luis Garisto, who was red-carded and later reported to FIFA for violent conduct. Baartz's World Cup dreams were shattered; Uruguay's bad boy tag stuck.

Wisely, perhaps, it was almost 20 years before the two met again. A tame 1992 friendly in Uruguay was won 2-0 by the home side. However, over the next 13 years, things were set to boil again.

## THEY SAID IT

**"I'm a South American. I grew up with my philosophy that football is about cunning, and about winning, however you do it."**
Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero, who played five times against Australia between 1997 and 2005.

**"I was either going to be the hero or the villain because if you miss your team's out or if you score your team might go through."**
Socceroo John Aloisi after scoring the decisive shoot-out penalty in November 2005 to propel Australia to the World Cup for the first time since 1974.

**"It's an unbelievable feeling. Maybe there'll be a national day off so we can all celebrate. I'll be looking to celebrate with everybody in Sydney tonight."**
Vince Grella after the same game.

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

**Matches:** 8
**Wins/losses/draws:**
Australia: 4/3/1
Uruguay: 3/4/1
**World Cup qualifiers:** 4
**Confederations Cup:** 1
**Friendlies:** 3
**Goals scored over the eight matches:**
Uruguay: 6
Australia: 5
Shoot-out penalties:
Australia 4, Uruguay 2
**Last time these two met...**
Sydney on November 16, 2005. A night most, no, make that all of us, will never forget. Australia won 1-0 (to make it 1-1 on aggregate before winning 4-2 on penalties). Mark Bresciano scored in regular time for Australia.

In 1993, current Hyundai A-League stars Kevin Muscat and Ante Milicic were part of a famous Young Socceroos World Youth Championship quarter-final against Uruguay. It featured one of Australia's greatest ever international goals.

Like an AFL full-forward taking a screamer over the back of a defender, Paul Agostino's flying header helped knock the startled Uruguayans out.

Four years later, at senior level, the Socceroos also eliminated the Uruguayans from the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia, with teen sensation Harry Kewell scoring the 92nd minute golden goal.

Eight years later, Kewell was to inflict more misery on the Uruguayans when he would transform the second leg World Cup 2006 qualifier in Sydney.

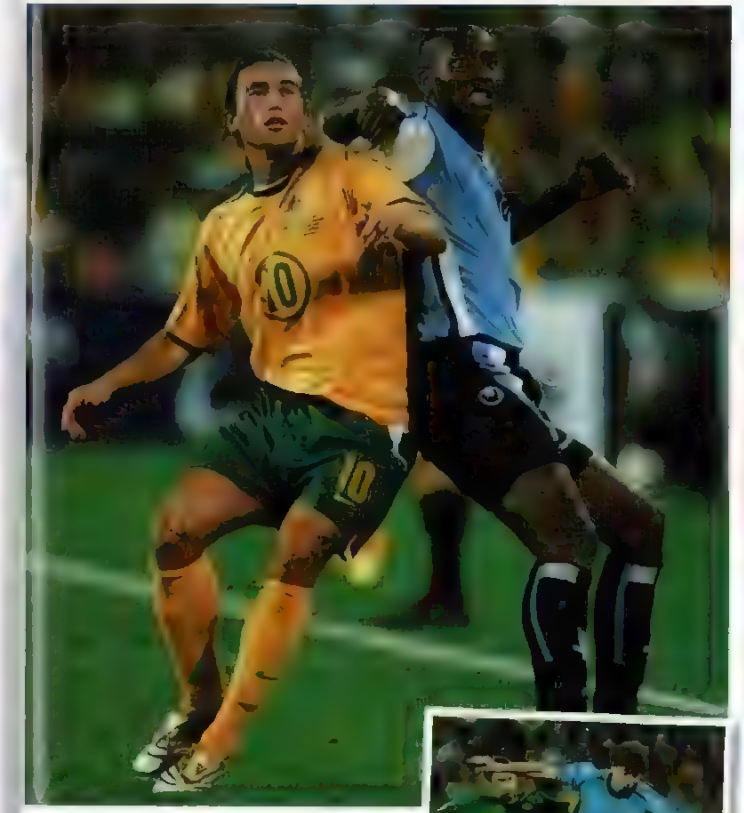
But sandwiched in-between that was the small matter of a World Cup 2002 qualifier. And the Uruguayans had the perfect platform for revenge.

Muscat's penalty gave the Aussies a slender lead going into the second leg in November 2001. However, a less than courteous reception from the locals at Montevideo airport and a 3-0 loss made it a nightmare visit for the Aussies as the Uruguayans celebrated their World Cup qualification.

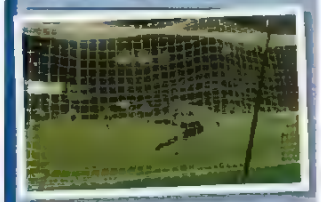
The events of this trip were to become the catalyst for "Operation Uruguay" four years later. Under the newly established Football Federation Australia, the Aussies were prepared for the trip over, while a big, beautiful Qantas plane was waiting on the tarmac to bring the Aussies home in comfort. It worked, and Guus Hiddink's Socceroos edged the tie on penalties after a 1-0 loss away and similar result at home.

Which brings us to tonight's instalment, which is not so much a re-match as a continuation of this epic four-decade saga. The football's always been passionate, the styles contrasting and the fans have loved it.

Tonight should be no different when, once again, the pride of Australia meet the illustrious Charruas ■



## GREAT MOMENTS



1 Kevin Muscat's penalty for the Socceroos in the first leg of the 2002 World Cup qualifier in Melbourne, giving the home side a valuable 1-0 lead (*above*).

2 Richard Morales' sensational substitute appearance for Uruguay in the second leg of the 2002 World Cup qualifier in Montevideo, where he scored twice in the final 25 minutes.

3 John Aloisi's World Cup 2006 qualification penalty on November 16, 2005 in Sydney.

4 Dario Rodriguez's goal in the first leg of the World Cup qualifier in Montevideo in November 2005.

# LUCAS SKYWALKER

## The sky's the limit for Socceroo main man Lucas Neill

by Aidan Ormond

For Lucas Edward Neill, the last 12 months have been splendid, sublime, inspiring and nerve-racking. Add a dash of controversy, and you've got a year the 29-year-old will never forget. Nor will we.

The nail-biting part? Lucas's club West Ham's Premiership Houdini act – the dénouement to this drama was played out at Old Trafford on the final day of the Premier League.

At one of the defender's favourite stadiums, the shock 1-0 win over Manchester United kept the Hammers in the elite for another season after they looked certain for the drop for much of 2007. In doing so, Neill justified his controversial move from Blackburn (after he spurned overtures from Liverpool) a few months earlier.

However, Neill's celebrated times revolve around his beloved Qantas Socceroos. A coming of age World Cup appearance in Germany last year was iced by his majestic performance at the hub of the Socceroo back-line. Neill's gloss on a picture-perfect World Cup had Aussie fans – and some of Europe's biggest clubs – in awe of the lad from Sydney's northern beaches.

## LUCAS SAYS

**Asian Cup dangers**

"The obvious teams around us include Japan and South Korea who, with World Cup experience, will definitely be strong. We'll need to be at our very best, on and off the pitch, mentally and physically, to overcome them. Again, our preparation will be thorough. We have the best backroom staff but yeah, I think the conditions will be [illegible] ller for everyone."

**Moving to West Ham**

"I came here, not so much for this season, but for next, to build and to buy into the Chairman's dream. He's a very ambitious man and he's a big football man."

**Socceroos' effect on Australians**

"It was phenomenal how proud so many people were of our performances and that so many people were so proud to be Australian."

around him, and the players who've not taken their foot off the pedal... especially those coming in, they've got to reach that level now."

The Socceroos have never won a major international football tournament - and Neill is desperate to change that stat on the evening of July 29, the night of the AFC Asian Cup 2007 final in Jakarta. "There's not really a lot you have to do to get players motivated and excited about the Asian Cup. It's an opportunity to win great honour for the national team.

"And if you ask anyone who's played for Australia over the last few years they'll all say they want to be there. It's recognised as a huge tournament and one we want to win.

"From a player point of view, I expect us to go there and be undefeated," Neill says of the Socceroos' Asian Cup jaunt, their first since Australia joined the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

"I really think that we've got a team and a squad that can handle the conditions. Enough of us have played on the big stage now that we won't be intimidated by the teams that we're going to play against.

"We need to approach each game professionally, make sure we get through our group and not make any silly mistakes in the late stages because I want to go over there to win. If we don't approach every game with the perfect preparation, with the perfect mentality, then

**"A coming of age World Cup appearance in Germany last year was iced by his majestic performances at the hub of the Socceroo back-line."**

And Neill is in awe of the way the Socceroos, the coaching staff and FFA have kept up the momentum after such a breakthrough tournament. "We've only had one World Cup but speaking with people like Guus [Hiddink] who've had more World Cup action, they all say there are always World Cup hangovers. People take their eye off the ball because it's such a hyped event and you're coming back to reality.

"But I think we've taken it to another level. We've set a benchmark now and we're still trying to improve, which is a credit to all the people at the FFA who've tried to maintain the standards.

"It's also a compliment to Arnie [Graham Arnold] and the coaching staff we're going to come unstuck."

Neill is using the Socceroos' World Cup nemesis Italy as inspiration to avoid coming unstuck in the heat of Asia. "If you look at Italy, they usually start big tournaments slowly and get stronger as they go on

and by the end they're peaking.

"Certainly the players who haven't played for a while [such as Cahill and Kewell] will have that hunger and determination and by the time they've got a few games under their belt they'll be confident and raring to go.

"You can never replace a Timmy Cahill, Mark Viduka or a Harry Kewell, but they're always a bonus to have in your team. It's a compliment to the rest of the team, we can do the job when these boys aren't there but you'd pick them in your first XI every time.

"There is definitely competition for places in every position and that's a great credit to a lot of the guys who are plying their trades all over. And when they come in and are asked to do a job they're doing it with flying colours."

Before tonight, the last time we saw the Green and Gold was in a friendly in China. That 2-0 win has given Neill some optimism about the future.

"I was a little bit surprised at how well they performed in the first half considering the state of the pitch, so it was actually quite enjoyable. But there were guys there that I was very unfamiliar with. You know their names and you know their faces but you don't know their styles.

"But we walked off that pitch very pleased with the way football's going to be in Australia. There's a great depth of talent and there's an opportunity for all those guys to really cement themselves in the squad and give themselves a chance to play in the Asian Cup.

"Competition for places means you've got to raise the bar and while they're all earning a living playing in Europe they're playing at a decent level and the main beneficiary of that is the national team."

The Socceroos may also unveil some of their younger guns for the Asian Cup, including some of the players Neill was impressed by in the China match. Brett Holman, 23, from the Dutch Eredivisie and the impressive Carl Valeri, the 22-year-old Italian-based holding midfielder are drawing attention.

Add in the likes of German-based central defender Matthew Spiranovic, 18, and Adelaide United's 19-year-old starlet Nathan Burns and you can understand Neill's optimism.

But does he now feel like a veteran? "I don't feel old! But it's nice that they're looking up to me the way I looked up to the older guys when I first played for the Socceroos 11 years ago."

Back in 1996 the Spice Girls were topping the charts worldwide, while Oasis were the biggest rock and roll band on the planet. In the world of football, hosts England were making waves at Euro 96 but it

## THE EARLY YEARS

LUCAS COULD HAVE played for the Aussie cricket team or even the Kangaroos rugby league team. "When I was five my parents bought me a cricket bat, a rugby league ball and a football and said 'go and play in the back garden and see which one you like best.'"

Thankfully, he made the right choice for Socceroo fans. However, he could have played football for Northern Ireland. Lucas's father Eddie is originally from Northern Ireland but arrived Down Under in 1969. Football, though, was in the Neill family blood. Eddie played for Belfast football sides Linfield Swifts, Cliftonville and Brantwood.

The Neills lived in the Northern Beaches of Sydney and young Lucas was a student at Wakehurst Primary School and St. Augustine's College in Brookvale, before making the prestigious Australian Institute of Sport on a football scholarship in 1994.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

At the Army Reserve, it's not just your time that is flexible, it's your job. You have the choice of around 70 different Army Reserve jobs to choose from such as dentists, mechanics, carpenters and combat engineers, to name but a few. Plus, you'll be trained with a unique range of skills that will be with you for life. On top of an exciting part-time job, you'll also receive tax-free pay and the chance to [illegible]

ARMY RESERVE



**"Enough of us have played on the big stage now that we won't be intimidated by the teams that we're going to play against."**

was Germany who took home the prize.

Australia was also a winner that year: Harry Kewell and Lucas Neill, two mates from Sydney, made their Socceroo debuts within months of each other.

Neill became the second youngest player after Kewell to debut for the Australian team, aged just 18 years and seven months when he arrived as a second half sub in a 0-0 friendly against Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

The Socceroo line-up that day featured current Hyundai A-League stars Kevin Muscat, Steve Corica, Paul Agostino, Paul Okon, and Carl Veart.

The recently retired Adelaide United stalwart Veart recalls Neill's debut. "I'd actually played against him in England when he'd just broken into the Millwall side and I was at Sheffield United. People forget he wasn't just an exceptional player, he was an exceptional athlete too," says Veart.

"He came into the Socceroo squad for his debut against Saudi Arabia and he was quiet but also confident. You could see he could handle himself on the ball."

Interestingly, over the following seven years Neill notched up just one more cap. That was in a friendly against the USA in 1998 on a terrible Spartan Stadium surface in San Jose. And again, it was a 0-0 draw.

After cementing his Socceroo place in 2003 it wasn't until 2004 that Neill actually played for Australia on home soil. Almost eight years after his debut, Neill played against the Solomon Islands in a Germany 2005 Confederations Cup qualifier at Aussie Stadium, with the Aussies winning 6-0.

Neill and the Socceroos returned to Germany a year later after disposing of Uruguay (where Lucas was man of the match in the second leg) and, well, the rest is history.

However, this extraordinary 12-month saga might just have one last twist courtesy of the Asian Cup in July.

"We were one of the fittest teams at the World Cup last year and again, no stone has been left unturned to ensure that we have the best staff to help us prepare and also assist with the recovery of the players in such humid conditions [in Thailand]," says Neill.

"You don't get many tournament opportunities so you grab them while you can. I'd much rather be playing for the Socceroos this [European] summer than running around West Ham training ground doing pre-season!" ■

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Age:** 29
**Socceroo appearances:** 32
**Clubs:** Manly United (1994)
Millwall (1995-2002)
Blackburn Rovers (2002-2007)
West Ham (2007-)
*The Socceroo says...*
"Inspirational personality allied with genuine international quality. Will go down as one of the great Socceroos in our history."

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Lucas has a stand named after him. The Lucas Neill Stand at his local club Sydney side played for Manly United back in 1994
- Lucas also has a foundation called (unsurprisingly) The Lucas Neill Football Foundation. It identifies youth players who are then taken to England and placed with Premier League clubs for a crack at the big time
- Lucas is a bit of a renaissance man – he enjoys Art
- Lucas is good mates with Harry Kewell

# AUSTRALIA

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Brad Jones |
| 2 | Lucas Neill |
| 3 | Shane Stefanutto |
| 4 | Patrick Kisnorbo |
| 5 | Jason Culina |
| 6 | Michael Beauchamp |
| 7 | Brett Emerton |
| 8 | Brett Holman |
| 10 | Luke Wilkshire |
| 11 | Scott McDonald |
| 12 | Daniel Allsopp |
| 13 | Carl Valeri |
| 14 | Simon Colosimo |
| 15 | Ryan Griffiths |
| 16 | Michael Thwaite |
| 17 | Nick Carle |
| 18 | Adam Federici |
| 19 | Archie Thompson |
| 20 | Matthew Spiranovic |
| 21 | Mile Sterjovski |
| 22 | David Carney |
| 23 | Jade North |
| 24 | Mark Bridge |



# URUGUAY

| | |
|---|---|
| Fabián Carini | 1 |
| Diego Lugano | 2 |
| Mauricio Victorino | 3 |
| Jorge Fucile | 4 |
| Pablo García | 5 |
| Darío Rodríguez | 6 |
| Cristian Rodríguez | 7 |
| Diego Pérez | 8 |
| Gonzalo Vargas | 9 |
| Álvaro Recoba | 10 |
| Fabián Estoyanoff | 11 |
| Sebastián Viera | 12 |
| Sebastián Abreu | 13 |
| Carlos Diogo | 15 |
| Gastón Filgueira | 16 |
| Guillermo Giacomazzi | 18 |
| Andres Scotti | 19 |
| Fabián Cannobio | 20 |
| Diego Forlan | 21 |
| Vicente Sánchez | 22 |

# Meet the Socceroos

AUSTRALIA

**Uruguay will meet a very different Australia line-up from when the sides last clashed at Telstra Stadium. Tonight, a new generation of Socceroos are in the spotlight**

THE LAST TIME the Qantas Socceroos played Uruguay the stakes were about as high as they get. With a World Cup spot going to the winners, both sides played their hearts out from start to nail-biting finish. The rest is history.

Tonight's World Cup qualification re-match may not be quite as nerve-shredding for spectators, but the desire for victory is every bit as strong, especially for the younger Socceroos.

No fewer than five players are poised make their senior international debuts tonight, they are: goalkeepers Brad Jones and Adam Federici, German-based defender Matthew Spiranovic and Hyundai A-League stars Danny Allsopp, and Mark Bridge.

Coach Graham Arnold has made it clear that the pressure is on for the new breed of Socceroos to claim their places on the Asian Cup squad

"There is a significant amount at stake for the players who will be pushing for selection for the Asian Cup squad as this match against Uruguay will be the final game before the team is finalised," said Arnold.

"There are still some spots to be decided and the performances at training and in the match against Uruguay will have a big influence on their chances."

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

**Referee** Roberto Rosetti (Italy)

**Assistant Referee 1** Ben Wilson (Australia)

**Assistant Referee 2** Nathan Gibson (Australia)

**4th Official** Matthew Breeze (Australia)

**Referees Assesor** Richard Lorenc (Australia)

**STAFFING**

**Head of Delegation** Philip Wolanski

**Team Manager** Gary Moretti

**Head Coach** Graham Arnold

**Asst Coach** John Kosmina

**Goalkeeping Coach** Tony Franken

**Conditioner** Anthony Crea

**Technical Analyst** Ron Smith / Ray Junna

**Doctor** Dr Peter Brukner

**Physio** Phil Coles

**Masseur** Luke Attwell

**Equipment Manager** Dominic Rabsch

**Media Manager** Stuart Hodge

**TV Unit** Lindsay McNeill

**Security** Brendan Paterson

GOALKEEPERS

## Adam Federici

**AGE:** 22 **CAPS:** 0
**POSITION:** GOALKEEPER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** READING (ENGLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 188 CMS

Federici, 22, is currently on the books at English Premier League side Reading. He made a huge impact in February during the past season, making headlines when his side drew 1-1 with Manchester United in the fifth round of the FA Cup. The NSW South Coast native won plaudits within the club and its fanbase, with some calling for him to be made the permanent number one keeper at the club. Federici is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport and has already represented Australia at youth level. He was called into to train with the Qantas Socceroos prior to the friendly played against Denmark in London in February this year





GOALKEEPERS

## Brad Jones

**AGE:** 25 **CAPS:** 0
**POSITION:** GOALKEEPER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** MIDDLESBROUGH (ENGLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 190CM

Brad is regarded as one of our most exciting young goalkeepers and is a teammate of both Mark Schwarzer and Mark Viduka at Middlesbrough in the English Premier League. Schwarzer rates Jones highly, particularly given his growing experience in English football. Apart from playing understudy for Schwarzer in the Boro first team, Brad has gained considerable experience in recent years with loan spells at Sheffield Wednesday, Notts County and Blackpool. Brad has represented Australia at U/20 level and will be aiming to impress Graham Arnold in his bid to become a regular Qantas Socceroo.

DEFENDERS

## Michael Beauchamp

**AGE:** 26 **CAPS:** 6
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** NUREMBERG (GERMANY)
**HEIGHT:** 191 CMS

Michael made his national team debut against Bahrain away in February 2006 in our Asian Cup group qualifiers. The 26-year-old had an outstanding game as the Socceroos won 3-1. He was also part of our last friendly, a 2-0 defeat over China in Guangzhou. With retirements in the Socceroo defence, the German-based Aussie has a wonderful opportunity now to establish himself in the national team. Although the Sydney-born player didn't get on the park in Germany last year, the experience will be vital as "Meggs" looks towards the Asian Cup and the World Cup qualifiers for South Africa 2010.

## Patrick Kisnorbo

**AGE:** 26 **CAPS:** 10
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** LEICESTER CITY (ENGLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 185 CMS

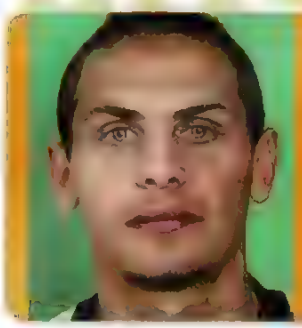
Patrick is a tough central defender, who is slowly making a name for himself in the UK with firstly Hearts in Scotland and now Leicester City in England. Since moving to Leicester, he's consistently been a first choice of the manager and his performances have earned him the captaincy of the team in place of fellow countryman Danny Tiatto. He's versatile, able to play as a right back and has also been used in midfield by Leicester. Patrick made his Socceroo debut in 2002 in our Oceania Nations Cup match against Vanuatu. He's since racked up 10 appearances in the green and gold

## Lucas Neill

**AGE:** 29 **CAPS:** 32
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** WEST HAM (ENGLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 183 CMS

Lucas made his Socceroo debut 11 years ago, but it's only over the last four years that the rugged Sydneysider has really established himself in the national team. After the World Cup in Germany, the West Ham star became one of the most recognised Socceroos after a commanding performance that impressed many worldwide and inspired a whole new generation of kids in Australia. What's more, Lucas's heartbreak over conceding a controversial final second penalty against Italy touched the Aussie sporting public, who've since taken him to their hearts.

DEFENDERS



## Jade North

**AGE:** 25 **CAPS:** 15
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** NEWCASTLE JETS (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 179 CMS

A mobile and versatile defender, North fits the bill for the modern Socceroo perfectly. The Newcastle Jets right back has been recognised at national level, having played for our national U/17s, U/20s, U/23s as well as the senior side over the last eight years. North grew up in Taree, just north of Newcastle, but began his senior club career with Brisbane Strikers in the old NSL aged just 16. He progressed to Perth Glory and Sydney Olympic where he won a grand final in 2002. The Jets man was part of the Socceroos' first ever AFC match against Bahrain in February 2006.

## Matthew Spiranovic

**AGE:** 18 **CAPS:** 0
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** NUREMBERG (GERMANY)
**HEIGHT:** 193 CMS

Another Australian currently plying his trade at German Bundesliga side Nuremberg, Spiranovic has recently been the subject of speculation after Croatian officials contacted to him in a bid to get the highly-rated defender to play for their national team. Spiranovic has already represented Australia at youth level and has committed his future to the green and gold. The Victorian has trained at both the Victorian Institute of Sport and the Australian Institute of Sport. With his height, Spiranovic is imposing in the air and will play an important role in the future of the Qantas Socceroos rearguard.

## Shane Stefanutto

**AGE:** 27 **CAPS:** 1
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** LILLESTROM (NORWAY)
**HEIGHT:** 177 CMS

After a number of years out of the national spotlight, Shane is now becoming a more regular player in the green and gold. The Queenslander previously played with the Brisbane Strikers in the National Soccer League, before heading off Norway to play for his current side Lillestrom. Shane has previously trained at the Queensland Academy of Sport and now has his sights set on asserting himself as a regular Qantas Socceroo. Having trained with the side prior to the friendly against Ghana in London, Steffanuto made his debut against China in the recent match held in Guangzhou.

## Michael Thwaite

**AGE:** 24 **CAPS:** 4
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** WISLA KRAKOW (POLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 191 CMS

Queenslander Michael has had a football education that will hold him in good stead as a regular Socceroo of the future. Currently playing in Poland, he has previously been in the middle of a club transfer nightmare after negotiations stalled when he was trying to move from his previous club in Romania. Thwaite appeared for Marconi in the old National Soccer League before heading overseas. Michael debuted for the Qantas Socceroos in 2005 in a match against Jamaica in London. After the departures of Tony Popovic and Tony Vidmar, Thwaite is hoping to graduate to become a regular starter.





MIDFIELDERS

## Nick Carle

**AGE:** 25 **CAPS:** 2
**POSITION:** DEFENDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** NEWCASTLE JETS (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 172 CMS

Carle's inclusion in tonight's line-up follows an outstanding 2006/07 season for the Newcastle Jets, culminating in being awarded the Johnny Warren Medal for the best player in the Hyundai A-League. Also, one of his goals was rated as "Goal of the Season" by *FourFourTwo* magazine. With a South American background, Carle is a player known for his flair and creativity and will be looking to unlock the Uruguayan defence with his trickery and turn of pace. With a number of talented midfielders already within the Socceroos, Carle is keen to impress to ensure he is called up to the Asian Cup squad. A player to watch, Carle has genuine flashes of brilliance that often result in goals.

## David Carney

**AGE:** 23 **CAPS:** 2
**POSITION:** ATTACKING MIDFIELDER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** SYDNEY FC (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 181 CMS

Like Brett Emerton, Carney is from the Campbelltown area in Sydney. And like the Socceroo flyer, he loves to run at defenders from wide positions with pace. The Sydney FC man was called up for his first Aussie cap against Bahrain last year (he came on for Scott McDonald in the final 10 minutes), and was selected again for the home game against Kuwait a few months later. And if the wide midfielder wants any inspiration, he need only think back to his days alongside friend Wayne Rooney in the Everton youth team, before the Englishman burst onto the Premier League scene in 2003.

## Simon Colosimo

**AGE:** 28 **CAPS:** 24
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER **GOALS:** 3
**CLUB:** PERTH GLORY (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 183 CMS

Versatility is just one element of Simon's game. He can run with the ball at his feet, making him an impressive midfielder, but his acute passing and positional play also earmark him as a sweeper. After an unsuccessful spell at Manchester City in England Simon returned to Australia to get his career back on track. He completed a stint in Malaysia with champion club Pahang but decided to remain in Australia and play in the inaugural season of the Hyundai A-League with Perth Glory. Simon has made 24 appearances for the Socceroos after making his debut against Fiji in 1998.

## Jason Culina

**AGE:** 26 **CAPS:** 20
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER **GOALS:** 1
**CLUB:** PSV EINDHOVEN (HOLLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 175 CMS

Jason is now a vital part of the Socceroo midfield after breaking into the national side in early 2005. There was little doubt that Culina would make the national team after he graduated to senior club football aged just 16 in the old NSL with Sydney United. After an up-and-down career in Europe over the last six years, his talents were finally able to blossom at PSV Eindhoven last year under the guidance of ex-Socceroo boss Guus Hiddink. His mobility, link play and ability to play the ball out of midfield intelligently will be vital for the Socceroos as they look to win the Asian Cup next month.

MIDFIELDERS

## Brett Emerton

**AGE:** 28
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER
**CLUB:** BLACKBURN ROVERS (ENGLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 185 CMS
**CAPS:** 55
**GOALS:** 12

Brett made his Socceroo debut as a teenager under English super-coach Terry Venables in 1998. Since then, he has been one of our most consistent national team players and has a tally of 12 goals in the green and gold. Emerton captained our Olympics 2000 side, played in the Dutch league with Feyenoord before a transfer to Blackburn in the English Premiership in 2003. The former Sydney Olympic man is one of the fittest players in the squad, as well as being one of the trickiest right-sided players around. "Emmo" can also pop up with the occasional spectacular goal

## Brett Holman

**AGE:** 23
**POSITION:** STRIKER
**CLUB:** NEC NIJMEGEN (NETHERLANDS)
**HEIGHT:** 177 CMS
**CAPS:** 5
**GOALS:** 1

Brett first attracted attention as a 17-year-old with Parramatta Power where he netted five goals in 11 games. He then scored a contract with Dutch giant Feyenoord, but was loaned straight out to sister club Excelsior, who were subsequently relegated. Staying with Excelsior he saw regular first team football becoming one of their most consistent performers in front of goal, his tenacity earning a Socceroo debut for the Asian Cup qualifier against Bahrain in February 2006. Now playing for ambitious Dutch side NEC Nijmegen, Holman is strong, aggressive, very quick and a good finisher

## Mile Sterjovski

**AGE:** 28
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER
**CLUB:** BASEL (SWITZERLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 180 CMS
**CAPS:** 30
**GOALS:** 4

Mile is another talented product of the Wollongong football scene. He first got noticed in the late 90s with Sydney United in the NSL, where he formed a brilliant strike partnership with Joel Griffiths. After a spell with Parramatta Power and an appearance for the Young Socceroos at the WYC in 1999, he moved to Europe in 2000 - first with Lille in France then Switzerland's Basel. His versatility has seen him play as more of an attacking wide midfielder during his European club career and with the Socceroos, where he played three out of four games at last year's World Cup.

## Carl Valeri

**AGE:** 22
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER
**CLUB:** GROSSETO (ITALY)
**CAPS:** 1
**GOALS:** 0

Canberra-raised Carl is seen as a natural back-up and eventual replacement for World Cup star Vince Grella. Also plying his trade in Italy, Valeri was noticed early on by giants Inter Milan who subsequently signed him up. Carl comes from a football family; his father Walter was a player in the National Soccer League. Carl has trained at the Australian Institute of Sport and was a regular in Australia's youth sides. His debut for the senior side came against China in Guangzhou. A key member in the U/23 side who played in the 2004 Athens Olympics, expect to see Carl more often in the senior national squad





MIDFIELDERS

## Luke Wilkshire

**AGE:** 25
**POSITION:** MIDFIELDER
**CLUB:** FC TWENTE (HOLLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 175 CMS
**CAPS:** 14
**GOALS:** 0

From playing in the English lower leagues to a starting spot in the World Cup and a move to the Dutch first division, 2006 was a massive year for Luke. The Wollongong-born speedster first got noticed as a key member of our Athens 2004 Olympics side But a desire to play regular first team football saw him move from Middlesbrough in the English Premiership to Bristol City in division two. However, coach Guus Hiddink liked what he saw and picked "Wilky" for the Socceroos' World Cup campaign. And with a move to Dutch club FC Twente last year, he looks to have a very bright future.

STRIKERS

## Daniel Allsopp

**AGE:** 28
**POSITION:** STRIKER
**CLUB:** MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 185 CMS
**CAPS:** 0
**GOALS:** 0

A first senior call-up for this powerful, hard running striker, who played a major role in Melbourne Victory's blitzing the Hyundai A-League Championship last season. After considerable success in the lower leagues of England, he returned to form a striking partnership with Archie Thompson at Victory. The goals didn't flow in a difficult first season, but that all changed last season when his consistent strike rate won him the 2006/07 Golden Boot award. Danny represented Australia at U/17 level and went on to appear for the Young Socceroos and the Under 23s.

## Mark Bridge

**AGE:** 21
**POSITION:** STRIKER
**CLUB:** NEWCASTLE JETS (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 180 CMS
**CAPS:** 0
**GOALS:** 0

It's been a busy couple of years for Mark Bridge. A foot injury ruled him out of the Young Socceroos squad for the 2005 World Youth Championships, and marred the first season of the Hyundai A-League with Newcastle. However, last season marked a strong comeback for the 21-year-old forward, who scored eight times for the Jets. He's also playing for the Olyroos as our U/23 side go all out to qualify for the Beijing Olympics. Sydney-born Mark was a student at the Westfield Sports High School and and attended the NSW Institute of Sport. At a young age, Bridge played for Parramatta Power

## Ryan Griffiths

**AGE:** 25
**POSITION:** STRIKER
**CLUB:** LIAONING FC (CHINA)
**HEIGHT:** 177 CMS
**CAPS:** 3
**GOALS:** 0

Ryan began his overseas career at National Bucharest in Romania and after a slow start suddenly blossomed. In 2006 he was transferred to leading Romanian club Rapid Bucharest. He's the second of the three Griffiths brothers to be selected in an Australia squad (Joel has already made his senior international debut). Ryan made his national league debut as an 18-year-old and quickly established himself as a player of the future His pace and skill saw him play for the U/23 team at the Athens Olympic Games in 2004, where he impressed officials and ultimately secured his move overseas. In February, made the surprise move to play with Chinese Super League side Liaoning FC

## Scott McDonald

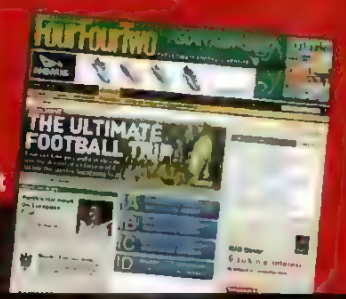
**AGE:** 23 **CAPS:** 3
**POSITION:** STRIKER **GOALS:** 0
**CLUB:** MOTHERWELL (SCOTLAND)
**HEIGHT:** 172 CMS

A graduate of the VIS, McDonald burst onto the national scene at 16 and played a leading role in the U/17 team that went all the way to the final at the 1999 Under 17 World Championships. He was snapped up by English side Southampton but despite being a regular goal scorer for the reserve team never made it to the first team. A move to current club Motherwell was the right decision as consistent performances for the Scottish Premier League side earned Scott an international call-up against Bahrain in 2006. Scott previously represented Australia at all three international levels. The 23-year-old is about to follow in the footsteps of Mark Viduka by joining Celtic next season

## Archie Thompson

**AGE:** 28 **CAPS:** 24
**POSITION:** STRIKER **GOALS:** 21
**CLUB:** MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUSTRALIA)
**HEIGHT:** 174 CMS

Arguably the Socceroos' most exciting forward, Archie played a crucial role in our qualification for Germany when he ran his heart out for 52 minutes in Montevideo last November. He warmed the bench in Germany and is now more determined than ever to snare a run-on berth of his own. His 21 goals in a Socceroo shirt include a world-record 13 in one match against American Samoa in 2001. He returned to Hyundai A-League high-flyers Melbourne after a short stint with Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven in early 2006 and ended an impressive season will a stunning five goals in the 2007 Grand Final, helping Victory clinch the double for the 2006/07 season

DON'T MISS
FOURFOURTWO'S COMPLETE DAILY ASIAN CUP COVERAGE
AUSTRALIA'S NUMBER ONE FOOTBALL SITE
● news ● exclusive interviews ● match previews & reports ● live scores ● blogs ● forums ● video diaries ● exclusive content
FourFourTwo THE ULTIMATE FOOTBALL WEBSITE


If you can't be there... be here www.au.fourfourtwo/asiancup2007 from June 6th



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

WINNING PARTNERSHIP

The Australian Sports Commission proudly supports Football Federation Australia

The Australian Sports Commission is the Australian Government agency that develops, manages and invests in sport at all levels in Australia. Football Federation Australia has worked closely with the Australian Sports Commission to develop football from community participation to high-level performance.

**Football Federation Australia is one of many national sporting organisations that has formed a winning partnership with the Australian Sports Commission to develop its sport in Australia.**

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

**www.ausport.gov.au**

# WE'VE GOT THE ASIAN CUP COVERED!

Australia's number one football magazine brings you unbeatable coverage of the Socceroos quest for Asian Cup Glory!

IN THE MAG

ONLINE

Daily coverage from June 6th at www.au.fourfourtwo/asiancup2007

ONE TO WATCH

# NATHAN BURNS A STRIKING TALENT

## The livewire striker from a sleepy country town is destined for a stellar career with the Socceroos

By Aidan Ormond

"I HAD A YEAR playing rugby league as a winger when I was a kid," explains Nathan Burns. "I was small so I'd just grab the ball and run with it." Thankfully for Aussie football, the nippy striker has been running with a round ball ever since. At his feet, that is.

Burns's natural football talent resulted in his selection for the NSW side at the National Primary School Championships in 1999. Since then, he's catapulted through the development system and into senior football.

By 2006, the quietly spoken lad from Blayney had announced himself in loud fashion. On the back of an electric debut season for Adelaide in the Hyundai A-League – including a hat-trick against Central Coast – the former AIS student iced the cake with a stunning goal for the Qantas Young Socceroos in the AFC Youth Championships in India last November.

Ray Burns, the striker's proud father, tells us, "It seems a lot of people are saying Nathan can go far." That comes as no surprise to the coach who discovered him, former Adelaide United boss John Kosmina.

"He's come straight from the AIS to first team football and set the world on fire. Now, it's not so much about keeping perspective, it's about doing the things that got him there in the first place," advises Kosmina.

By 2007, the whippet-thin Adelaide forward was rapidly becoming a hero for the Green and Gold Army after graduating to Rob Baan's Qantas U23s. He was also tormenting defences across Asia in the red shirt of United as a key part of its AFC Champions League campaign.

Looking ahead, a Socceroo call-up would cap an extraordinary rise for Burns, who at just 19 ticks all the boxes – he's sharp, confident, intelligent, athletic and has a keen eye for a goal.

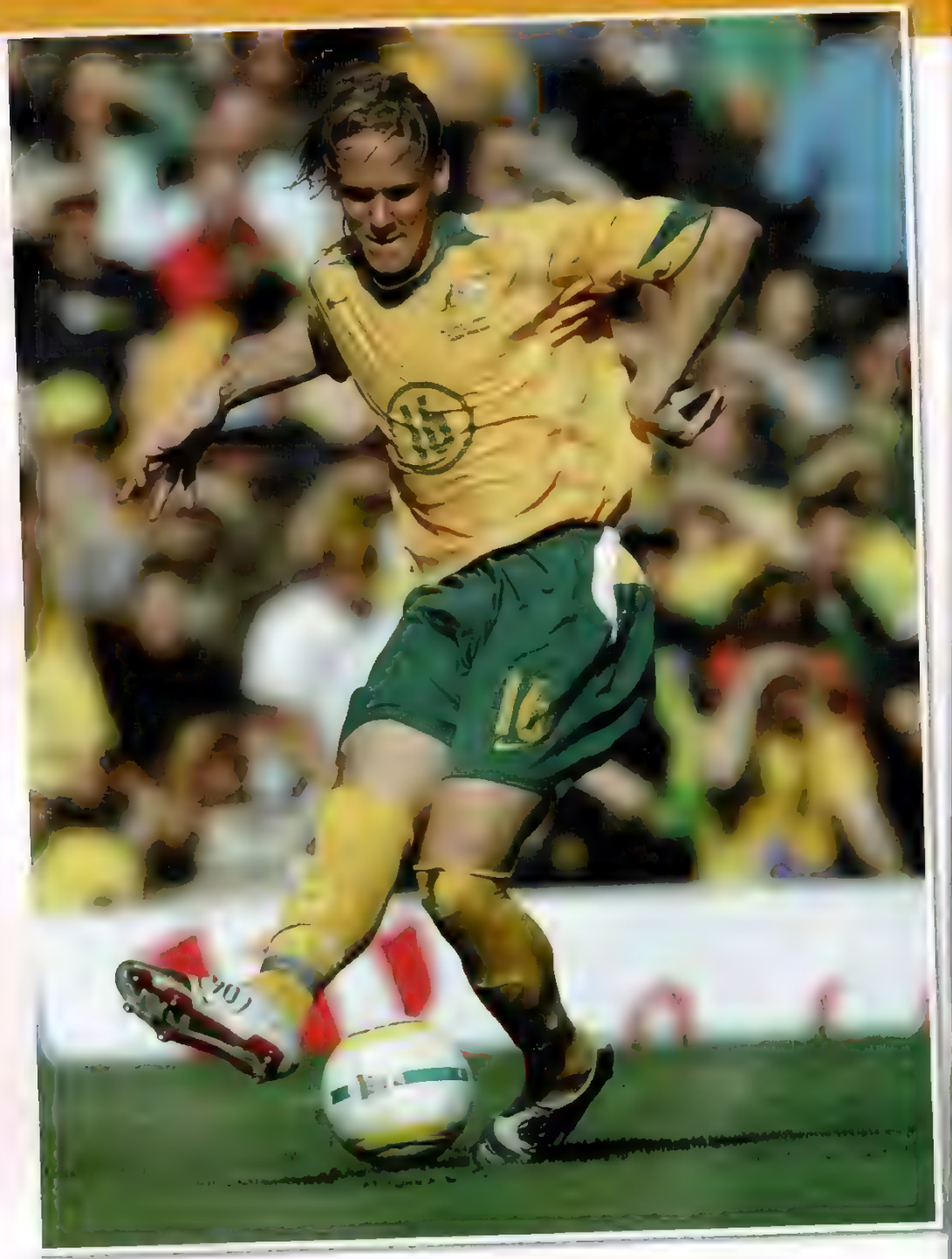
Imagine, Cahill, Kewell and Burns in the same Socceroo line-up? The good news for Aussie fans is that day will come sooner rather than later. Not that Burns is getting too carried away.

"I haven't achieved everything yet. I'm still a long way off. Everyone has that goal to play for the Socceroos and I'm the same.

"Twelve months ago I was in Canberra not sure what I was going to do," adds the Socceroo-in-waiting.

"But I'm happy with how it's gone. It's been such a long journey since I started to where I am now."

**VITAL STATISTICS**
Born: May 7, 1988, Blayney NSW
Club: Adelaide United
Height: 173cm







MICHAEL THWAITE

# BACK IN THE GAME

**Michael Thwaite bounced back from a frustrating year to focus on reclaiming a spot in the Qantas Socceroos line-up**

by Nick Coppack

THE LAST MONTHS OF 2005 were a rollercoaster for promising defender Michael Thwaite. There was the elation of his first call-up to the national side in the Qantas Socceroos' 5-0 friendly win over Jamaica in October, but it was to be short-lived as trouble was brewing at his Romanian club side, FC National Bucharest.

Problems with his transfer from the Romanian club to Polish side Wisla Krakow resulted in the former Marconi player spending a long, frustrating spell on the sidelines. And his hopes for a place in Australia's 2006 World Cup squad were dashed.

After almost of a year of legal wrangling Thwaite's career was finally back on track. He made his Wisla debut in September 2006 and a recall to the national side for the friendly against Ghana followed.

Now 23, the player whose versatility and skill has moved Australia coach Graham Arnold to compare him to Tony Vidmar, is putting the turbulent times behind him and gunning for a regular spot in the Socceroos' back-line.

**How are you enjoying being part of the Socceroos squad? Do you feel comfortable in the set-up now?**
A lot of people are calling younger players like me the next generation of Socceroos, but nobody's getting too settled just yet. A few older players have retired recently so being a defender who can cover most of the positions in the back-line should help my cause. I think that's what Graham Arnold expects from players. He likes that versatility. Some of the Socceroos who just retired were the heart of the defence, so he's looking at the younger players to step up. He's been willing to give us more experience and more game-time so we can match it at international level.

**Has it always been in the back of your mind that a player who can slot into a number of positions is more likely to be selected?**
Ten years ago it was a bit different as players tended to specialise in one position. These days I think versatility counts for a lot more and it's important to be able to play in many different positions. I was always thrown into different positions as a youngster. When I was at Marconi, just a few years ago, I was often played in the centre

"After we won and qualified it was such a relief for everyone in Australia. It was an honour to be part of such a fantastic squad."

of midfield. Now I generally play at left or right back. I do think it could prove beneficial to be versatile. Everyone wants to play for Australia and it's very competitive. If you limit yourself to one position then you just make things harder for yourself. It's all about keeping your options open.

**You mentioned the players who have retired. Some Australia fans are worried about how the team will cope with the loss of such experienced players. Is there a similar feeling within the squad?**
I don't think so. We've lost some of the older heads but now players like Lucas Neill, Brett Emerton, Vince Grella and Mark Bresciano are good leaders and the squad is based around them. When we play a back three with Lucas Neill at the back we look very stable. The coaching staff don't like to isolate the younger players so we've always got experienced heads alongside us.

That said, in the Ghana and Denmark matches Graham Arnold paired me with Patrick Kisnorbo to see how we'd go. I think we did quite well, from what I've seen on the videotapes, but they scored three quality goals and we had a couple disallowed. On another day, the result could have been very different.

**You would have grown up watching some of the players that you're now playing alongside...**
Yeah, when I first went into camp under Frank Farina in 2005 I was so excited just to be a part of it. Growing up in North Queensland, I used to watch our World Cup campaigns on TV and of course I had ambitions to play for Australia. For it to happen so soon in my professional career is such an honour. And these players are great guys; they're normal people at the end of the day and we all get on and have a laugh.

**Do you remember where you were when you got that first call-up?**
I was based in Romania at the time and playing week-in, week-out. I knew it would probably take a move overseas to boost my chances of selection. I knew Frank Farina through my youth development and it was good for me to train under him because, growing up in Cairns, he was always a big icon for me. I owe my start to him. And Graham Arnold's been great, too. I've been involved with him through the U20 World Cup through to the U23 Olympic campaign and I'm sure he played a part in convincing Frank I could do the job.

**You were involved on that memorable night in Sydney when we clinched World Cup qualification with victory over Uruguay. How disappointing was it to then miss out on the squad for the tournament in Germany?**
I've had a lot of time to think about it but in the end I was just pleased to be home with my family after what had been a very tough year. I went through a very, very difficult 11 months without playing professional football because of political issues in Romania where my club, FC National Bucharest, wanted a transfer and I didn't.

**What effect did you think all that time on the sidelines would have on your international career?**
I was feeling very depressed because I knew I had to be playing regularly to be selected for the World Cup. The competition felt so close but also so far away because I knew I had no chance of getting selected. I was talking to the Socceroos' management and coaching staff and they were helping me as much as possible to get through the situation. I'm only 24 so hopefully I can still play at a World Cup.

**Obviously there are good memories associated with the last time we played Uruguay. You didn't make it on the pitch, but you were involved in the squad. What do you remember about that night?**
It was the biggest achievement in my football career and probably Australia's before the team's success at the World Cup. The 90 minutes plus extra time went really quickly, but the penalty shoot-out seemed to take so long and all the squad on the bench were side-by-side and arm-in-arm. After we won and qualified it was such a relief for everyone in Australia. It was an honour to be part of such a fantastic squad.

In the dressing room after the match it was so crazy, especially with John Travolta and Dawn Fraser there. Everyone was dancing in a circle and there was champagne everywhere. It was a credit to all the players and coaches who were involved throughout the entire campaign and, on a personal note, I was so proud to be celebrating all this with my family in Sydney.

**How do you think Uruguay will play this time?**
I think they'll definitely play a very forward and attacking style. They'll try and get the ball wide as early as possible to drag us out of our defensive zones. We have to be careful not to give them too much time and space.

**VITAL STATISTICS**
Born: May 2 1983, Brisbane
Height: 179cm
Weight: 74kg
Debut: vs Jamaica (W5-0), London, October 2005
Last Match: vs Denmark (L1-3), London, February 2007

**This is technically a friendly match, but do you think they will be particularly up for it, considering what happened in 2005?**
I think both squads are going through a transitional phase and will want to breed the next generation of players. But we'll also both want to maintain a solid foundation and we'll do that by including some of the more experienced players. Both countries will want to win and for Australia it is a real test and great preparation for the Asian Cup.

**Which players will the Socceroos need to be particularly mindful of?**
They have a fantastic goalkeeper in Carini and a solid midfield rock with Garcia. They have also produced great attackers in Recoba and Forlan. But I also really like how Estoyanoff plays. He was very quick and dangerous against us over in Uruguay.

**So what's the goal for you? Where would you like to see your career take you?**
I'd love to play in one of the top leagues and I think the English and German leagues would suit my game best. Obviously England would help because it's English-speaking but not having a British passport hinders my opportunities a little. I'm happy where I am at the moment because I think Eastern European football is very competitive. I don't think there's a massive gulf in quality. That said, the Premier League is obviously the big one and if the opportunity came in a few years to make a move there then I'd love that. But all I can do now is concentrate on what's happening at the moment.

# Venturing into Asia

*The Socceroo* heads to glitzy Bangkok, the Socceroos' base for the Asian Cup, to sample the delights ahead for Australian fans

by Aidan Ormond

It's midnight and my taxi rockets down the expressway linking the gleaming behemoth of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport with the city's glittering night skyline. Bangkok, I soon discover, is mad for football, mad for a party and bursting with mad taxi drivers.

On my first morning, I set out to find Rajamangala Stadium – the Qantas Socceroos' Bangkok base for the AFC Asian Cup 2007. When I tell the hotel concierge my travel plans, his smile changes to utter incomprehension: an elaborate two-hour boat, Sky Train, regular train, taxi and a hot and humid walk later, I understand why.

Rajamangala Stadium dominates the landscape of the town of Hua Mark. It's like a Soviet stadium: humungous arc-shaped stands with a running track around the pitch. Standing in the centre circle I lay a Socceroo shirt out for good luck.

In the town there are toothless, wrinkly women selling Beyonce "Bootylicious" T-shirts ("100 baht for you"), toothless, wrinkly men watching Thai boxing on tiny tattered TV sets, steam rising from crowded narrow streets packed with hot food stalls, skeletal dogs and 10 baht soft drinks.

Back in downtown Bangkok I feel like I've played 90 minutes, extra time and penalties. Time for a beer.

The Bull's Head is friendly and inviting. It feels good to relax on the comfy sofas with a pint of Old Speckled Hen ("Gai Yai" meaning Big Chicken) after a long day on safari to Raja. Roast dinners and English breakfasts are on the menu, while Oasis is on the jukebox and football is always on TV. It's an oasis from the humidity. Trust me, you'll need it.

It's managed by the brilliant Billy Brunsdon – a former Pattaya DJ, a Tottenham fan and all-round diamond geezer. As we watch Man United dismantle Everton on the big screen, Billy tells me: "It doesn't matter if you're a vicar or a clubber, there's something for everyone in Bangkok. You won't want to leave."

Later, we swing by two of Sukhumvit's more popular nightspots: Q-Club, a sweaty, compact club, and The Bed Supper Club, a spotless, white two-floored caper with cosy king size beds lining the pristine white walls.

"The Thai government has been under military rule recently. But the only soldier I saw in Bangkok was on TV singing a love song."

The idea here is you kick back and drink with whoever's lounging next to you, in my case two Guinness-drinking Thai ladies from the pub, who balance their drinks on the bedside table, while DJ Bee plays electro, house and breakbeats (my request for Shannon Noll was met with a curious stare).

Bangkok officially closes at 1am, but if you're in the know with locals, you'll find a place to let loose in Sukhumvit or Silom after Socceroo matches.

Over the next few days I roam Bangkok's broken down pavements, jumping on and off the Sky Train and into various taxis, soaking in the boisterous mayhem of downtown Bangkok's sois (small streets off main roads), parks, outdoor markets, shopping centres, temples and the crazy-busy river Chao Phraya.

I wander into a massive public funeral next to a train station, meet a soldier in uniform doubling as a taxi driver, take the obligatory tuk-tuk ride (not recommended with the car fumes) and go on a surreal trip to a shop in Patpong. When I walk in, the staff begin a sort of Thai Macarena to taped music. Soon, the entire store has stopped what they are doing to dance this choreographed routine. I just stand there gawping.

Bangkok makes the average Aussie earner feel like a king: touch, taste, smell, see, hear at a fraction of the price at home. You can get a meal for 60 baht (about $2), a soft drink for 10-20 baht (70c). Take a taxi from Sukhumvit to Silom for 60 baht.

## ESSENTIALS

**GETTING TO BANGKOK**
Qantas operates daily services to Bangkok. For bookings go to www.qantas.com.au or call 13 13 13. Jetstar flies three times weekly direct between Melbourne and Bangkok. Fares in economy start from $439, one way inclusive of surcharges, fees and taxes with fares in StarClass starting from $999 one way inclusive. Go to www.Jetstar.com or call the Jetstar Reservation Centre on 131 538

**ARRIVING IN BANGKOK**
Once through customs, ignore the gaggle of locals pitching for your taxi dollar, head down the escalator and outside. Line up and staff in yellow shirts give you a ticket and point you to a taxi. Around 400 baht ($14) will get you into the city, which you pay when you arrive. It takes about 20-25 minutes.

**GETTING AROUND**
THE SKY TRAIN
Clean, efficient, regular, cheap and, crucially for this town, air-conditioned. There are two Sky Train lines: Silom and Sukhumvit. Announcements are in Thai then English. Enjoy plasma screens showing Thai music videos (with an alarming number of Thai boy bands).

Smart travellers buy all-day tickets for 120 baht ($4). That's another great thing about the Sky Train: you get a free tour of the city as you glide above the traffic mayhem below.

TAXIS
Get out of the mindset that taking taxis is a costly expense. In Bangkok, it's the only way to go on ground level. And it's amazingly cheap and almost always air-conditioned.

**FINDING THE RAJAMANGALA STADIUM**
Sky Train to either Ekkamai or Phra Khanong (heading towards On Nut) and it's about 15 minutes in a taxi from either station depending on matchday traffic. The Green and Gold Army may be able to help with transport to and from the ground. Go to www.ggarmyontour.com or call 1300 300 756 for more info on their packages.

**WHERE TO STAY**
Qantas Holidays has something to suit all budgets. You can book everything including airfares or just reserve a hotel room or sightseeing tour. Call Qantas Holidays on 13 14 15 or visit www.qantas.com/holidays.

# BANGKOK

## THINGS TO DO

**NIGHTCLUBS**
**Bed Supper Club**
26 Soi Sukhumvit 11, Sukhumvit Road
Tel: 02 651 3537

**Q Club**
34 Soi Sukhumvit 11, Sukhumvit Road
Tel: 02 252 3274

**PUBS**
**Bull's Head**
595/10-11 Sukhumvit Soi 33/1
Tel: 02 259 4444

**The Barbican Bar & Brasserie**
9/4-5 Soi Thaniya, Silom Road
Tel: 02 234 3590

**The Winking Frog**
9 Sukhumvit Soi 7
Tel: 02 254 2890
(Has its own football team, too!)

**SHOPPING**
Emporium at Phrom Phong is similar to Siam's Paragon. Try the Central Department Store on Silom Road for slightly cheaper prices and Robinson's next to Saphan Taksin Sky Train.

The new Bangkok can be seen in luminous, chic multi-level shopping centres like the Paragon at Siam. Labels, marble, spacious, it's emblematic of sophisticated Bangkok.

Similarly, Sirocco on the 64th floor of the State Tower (at the river end of Silom Road) may be a bit on the expensive side, but the view of the metropolis from the outside bar is spectacular.

Once a year, Thailand's elite – including former Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra who recently put a bid in for Liverpool – gather at Sirocco for a dinner costing 50 million baht ($180,000). However, the old Bangkok is always just around the corner.

A grizzled, toothy, smiling old woman sitting on the steps outside Taksin Sky Train station is selling warm rice wrapped in banana leaves for 10 baht (about 30 cents). I convince her to pose for a photo. Afterwards, I brandish a 50 baht note for her trouble, but she refuses. Only after my insistence does she take it.

In a land of smiles, the Thais' contentment with their lot in life and inner happiness is humbling. Perhaps it's got something to do with being a Buddhist nation. The Yanawa Temple (or

wat) on Charoen Krung Road near the Saphan Taksin Sky Train is worth seeing for the large floating temple.

The Thais are very respectful people, and they afford their King great reverence. Posters pop up everywhere with the faces of the royal family smiling back. I am told a drunk Swedish backpacker in Pattaya spray-painted the faces of the royal family on a poster and got 75 years in jail (reduced to 12 on appeal). You've been warned.

Also, the Thai government has been under military rule recently. But the only soldier I see during my trip to Bangkok is on TV singing a love song while backed by the cast of what looks like *The King And I*.

For Socceroo fans, though, this is a genuine football city. Foreigners – or "farangs" in Thailand – get live international football beamed in on various Asian sports channels. I see live Champions League, Premiership, La Liga, Serie A *and* Serie B.

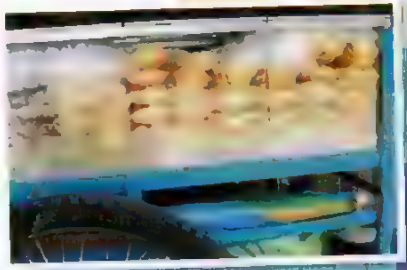
Even a friendly between a German legends XI (featuring a portly Felix Magath huffing and puffing in the humidity of late afternoon Bangkok) versus Taiwan B is shown live. Pick up a copy of the *The Bangkok Post* and

## TRAVEL TIPS

- Take small notes (10 baht coins, and 20, 50 and 100 baht notes) when going out. You don't want to be paying for a drink with a 1000 baht note as you could get stiffed on the change without knowing it.
- Taxi drivers are almost always honest, but check the taxi meter is on when you get in to avoid any haggling later.
- Photocopy your passport's main page before you go. Keep it in a safe place should you misplace your passport.
- Phone cards are 110 baht (about $4). Dial the number, put in your PIN and make calls at about 2 baht. Bargain.
- Thais rarely lose their rag in public. If you do, it makes you look ignorant in their eyes. Keep your cool and smile. Another thing is public displays of affection. You don't see Thais kissing or touching in public. You shouldn't either.
- Don't take the bus.
- Tip when and where you can. You can afford it... and like Earl, it's good karma.

SOCCEROOS
AUSTRALIA
SUPPORTER GEAR FOR MEN AND BOYS
BOYS SIZES 7-16
$22.99
MENS $15.99
BOYS SIZES 7-16
$34.99
MENS SIZES S-XXL
$29.99
BOYS SIZES 7-16 $29.99
BOYS SIZES 7-16
$34.99
BOYS SIZES 3-6
$19.99
BOYSWEAR AVAILABLE ALL STORES.
MENSWEAR AVAILABLE SELECTED STORES
CONTACT 1800 634 251 FOR STORE LISTING.





## MORE THINGS TO DO!

### SPORTS

**Muay Thai (Thai boxing)**
The cheaper seats are up the back where the locals bet on the bouts.
**Where:** Lumpini Stadium
Rama IV Road, Bangkok
Tel: 02 252 8765
Prices: 500-2000 baht (about $18-$70). Take the MRT train line to Lumpini. Or take the Sky Train to Sala Daeng and head to King Rama's statue and wander down Rama IV Road for 15 minutes

**Bangkok Bike Rides**
14/1-B Soi Promsi 2, Sukhumvit 39,
Klongtan Nua,
Wattana, Bangkok
Tel: 02 712 5305
Email: info@bangkokbikerides.com

**Dive with the Sharks**
666 Sukhumvit Rd (Exit 4, Phrom Pheng Sky Train station)
Tel: 02 261 4412 & 02 261 4413

### SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT

**The barber of Bangkok**
Get a proper wet shave for only 50 baht ($1.60). For an extra 80 baht, indulge in a lovely 30-minute face massage
**Where:** SM Barbers. On Pan Road, in front of Sri Mariamman Hindu temple off Silom Road, Silom

**Suits you**
Have "Roger the Tailor" measure you up for a sharp bespoke suit. And Roger knows the city like the back of his well-manicured hand
**Where:** Embassy Fashion, 57/6-7 Wireless Road, Lumpinee Patunwan
Tel: 02 2512620 & 02 6273838
Mobile: 081 829 2006
Email: roger@EmbassyFashion.com

you'll find its back page entirely devoted to European football.

English expat Chris Sanderson - who runs the International Casuals football league in Bangkok - says Thai domestic football is "not a millionth as popular as European football".

"The Thais love English, Spanish, German and Italian football. They love the super-hero status of the foreign footballers. I mean, can you blame them? Who wants to go and see a Thai league match between the Thai Port Authority and the Thai Army?" says Chris.

Unsurprisingly then, during the five days I spend in Bangkok, just one of the Thai football fans I meet know the Asian Cup will actually be played in their city. "But the Thais are very nationalistic and the stadium will be packed out when the Socceroos play here," adds Chris.

As the speedometer clocks 132km/h on the expressway back to the airport, the taxi driver smiles and says, "Liverpool, number one... Jamie Carragher, I like him."

I'd like him to slow down I say to myself as I smile and hang on. And this is exactly what you should do in Bangkok - just smile and enjoy the mad ride. ■

***The Socceroo* flew to Bangkok with Qantas, the official airline of the FFA and the Hyundai A-League and proud sponsor of the Qantas Socceroos.**

**We stayed at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers Bangrak, courtesy of Qantas Holidays.**

**Qantas Holidays are offering four-night packages to Bangkok from $1531, ex-Sydney to Bangkok during the Asian Cup. Call 13 14 15 or contact your local travel agent.**

**Terms and conditions apply.**

# THE YEAR IN GREEN & GOLD

## It's been a massive year for the Green and Gold Army!

by Mark Van Aken

Has there been a better year to be a fan of the Qantas Socceroos? The explosion of support during Australia's momentous World Cup campaign speaks for itself, but since then there's been plenty to keep us busy.

After the heartache of Kaiserslautern came the promise of greener pastures in the new landscape of Asia, and a small group of hardy Green and Gold Army members winged their way over to Kuwait to sample AFC Asian Cup qualification first hand. The visitors had a ball while the locals were bemused as Australian chants rang out across town.

Brisbane got a chance to show its appreciation for the lads in October with the friendly against Paraguay at Suncorp, a game memorable for the retirements of big "Spider" Kalac, Stan Lazaridis, Tony Vidmar and Tony Popovic

Mark Bresciano banged home a brilliant effort against Bahrain at Aussie Stadium in October that is surely among the best scored in a gold jersey. The crowd went nuts, while the Socceroos sailed to a comfortable 2-0 victory

The Socceroos' profile in the Old Dart continues to climb, a fact evident in November when the Green and Gold amassed at Loftus Road for the Ghana friendly. There was as much fun had by the Aussie crew around the stadium as inside it, as the team's London fan club continued to swell.

The Green and Gold Army was more subdued at the same venue earlier this year when the team was humbled by Denmark - not that many noticed back home as they wiped the sleep from their eyes while negotiating their breakfast at pubs around the country.

There were some true believers in the crowd in Guanzhou, China in March, however the local was again the most popular spot for fans as Graham Arnold's chargers dominated the rising stars of Asia on their own turf. With breaks between games, passionate fans turned to "banner making days" in an effort to make the next game bigger, louder and brighter.

Tonight, the area behind the goal at Telstra Stadium will be full to the brim with thousands of fans on their feet, singing and chanting and reliving the most magical night in Australian sports history less than two years ago. A massive year for Aussie football fans? You bet it was. ■

AUS - TRA - LIA, LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

The girls go crazy with the blusher in Sydney

Photos supplied by members of the Green and Gold Army - www.ggarmy.com

A fan's eye view

The fans get jumping behind the goals

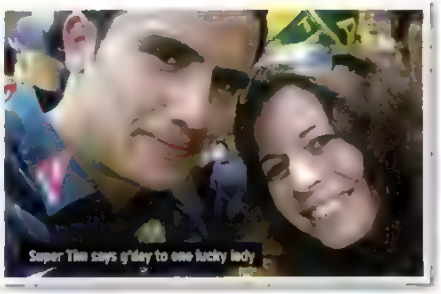
Big Mark Schwarzer's feelin' the love

So that's what it's like under there - the giant Socceroos jersey makes its way over the crowd

Baffling the locals in Bahrain

The Melbourne crew got in on the action

You can't go to "Lang Park" without having a beer at the Carlton first



Super Tim says g'day to one lucky lady

The Perth boys stayed up all night making their banner

Flying the flag in Brisbane

Germany's been and gone, but the Hoff is forever

A future Matilda? Fans getting ready in London

Melbourne based 'Roos fans waking up against Denmark

The "army" marches to Loftus Road

Lord Howe Island NSW
Hat Head, North Coast of NSW
Grand Pa
Warrumbungles National Park, Heart of Country NSW
We've already planned your next holiday

There's no place like NSW for a fantastic holiday. While it's hard to top the world-famous harbour city of Sydney, travellers who venture further afield will be rewarded with unforgettable experiences. And there's no better way to plan your holiday than with a New South Wales holiday planner, each packed with great places to visit and things to do. So if you're looking for the perfect holiday, chances are we've already planned it.

For your FREE NSW holiday planners call 13 14 52 or go to visitnsw.com

An initiative of Tourism New South Wales on behalf of the NSW Government

New South Wales®
There's no place like it




# SHOOT 'N' SCORE!

1 Who is this former Qantas Socceroo?

2 In what year did the Socceroos play their first international match?

3 Who is the Socceroos' all-time top goalscorer?

4 How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup?

5 When did Uruguay last win the Copa America?

6 What is Uruguay's current FIFA world ranking?

7 At which ground does Uruguay play home internationals?

8 Which Socceroo scored the only goal in Australia's 2001 World Cup qualifier against Uruguay at the MCG?

9 Who captained Australia that day?

10 Who scored Australia's fourth penalty in the World Cup qualifier against Uruguay at Telstra Stadium in November 2005?

11 How many spectators watched that match?

12 In what city was Australia's first ever World Cup goal scored?

13 Who scored it?

14 Which other country has he represented at youth level?

15 Which Sydney FC player was selected for the 2006 FIFA World Cup Squad?

16 What is the largest margin Australia have won an international match by?

17 Which nation was that match against?

18 Which Australian player was awarded the Scottish PFA's Player of the Year award in the year 2000?

19 Against which side did Sydney FC's Mark Milligan make his Socceroo debut?

20 Where was Socceroos defender Craig Moore born?

21 Which side knocked Sydney FC out of the Hyundai A-League 2007 Finals Series?

22 Which of these former Socceroo coaches has not played an international game for his country? Graham Arnold, Guus Hiddink, Frank Farina, Terry Venables.

23 Which Sydney FC player made his Socceroo debut in the squad's first ever match in Asia last year?

24 Which English youth team has he played for?

25 Who captained the Socceroos in the friendly against Denmark in February this year?

26 At which ground was that match played?

27 Which players won their 50th Socceroo A caps at that game?

28 Who do Australia play in their opening Asian Cup match?

29 Which other teams are in Australia's group?

30 Who is the Socceroo below?

**ANSWERS!**

1 Paul Agostino 2 1922, vs New Zealand 3 Damian Mori, 29 4 2, 1930 & 1950 5 1995 6 23 7 Estadio Centenario 8 Kevin Muscat (per) 9 Pau Okon 10 John Aloisi 11 82 698 12 Kaiserslautern 13 Tim Cahill 14 Samoa 15 Mark Milligan 16 31-0 17 American Samoa 18 Mark Viduka 19 Leichtenstein, June 2006 20 Sydney 21 Newcastle Jets 22 Guus Hiddink 23 David Carney 24 Everton 25 Brett Emerton 26 Loftus Road, London 27 Josip Skoko & John Aloisi 28 Oman 29 Iraq, Thailand 30 Tim Cahill

# MEMBERSHIPS NOW ON SALE

JOIN WITH THREE MATES BEFORE 24 AUGUST 2007 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN YOUR CHOICE OF THREE AMAZING SYDNEY FC PRIZES:

1. You and seven of your friends will dine with Sydney FC's coach and your favourite player at Star City's Astral Private Dining Room, or
2. You and three of your friends will travel to Melbourne to see Sydney FC play the reigning champions, Melbourne Victory FC, at Telstra Dome, including flights, accommodation, transfers and of course match tickets, or
3. A private coaching session for you and ten mates with four of your favourite Sydney FC players

For further details on Sydney FC Memberships, please contact the club on memberships@sydneyfc.com or phone 02 9387 4233 or visit www.sydneyfc.com

SYDNEY FC

Star City · The Sydney Morning Herald · Foxtel · Grays · colby · Qantas · Musashi

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

HYUNDAI · Qantas · Telstra · Zurich · Fox Sports

# FFA

recognises the continued support of its partners

AUSTRALIA

## Official Partners

QANTAS · HYUNDAI · POWERADE · Telstra · nab · Westfield · Australian Government Australian Sports Commission · FOX SPORTS · Sydney

## Official Suppliers

TED BAKER LONDON · SONY · Weet-Bix



**EDITOR** Emma Kean
**DEPUTY EDITOR** Richard Cann
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Paul Hansford
**WRITERS** Jackson Gothe-Snape, Aidan Ormond, Richie Young
**PREPRESS** Nathan Sargent
**PHOTOGRAPHY** Getty Images
**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Debra Taylor
**CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Sam Grimmer

**PUBLISHER** Andy Jackson
**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS** Darren McNally, James Horrocks
**TO ADVERTISE CALL: 02 89082203**

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Angela Jenkins
**PRINTERS** SOS Print, Sydney

**MANAGING DIRECTOR** Jeremy Vaughan

*The Socceroo* was produced in conjunction with Football Federation Australia by Haymarket Media Pty Ltd. (ABN 61 083 063 914), 52 Victoria Street, McMahons Point, NSW 2060.


Material or images from this magazine may not be reproduced without prior permission from the publisher. © 2007


haymarket

# PABLO FRENKEL
# URUGUAYAN PRIDE

That electric night in November 2005 brought both heartbreak and joy for Sydney-based Uruguay fan, Pablo

interview by Aidan Ormond

**AGE:** 32
**OCCUPATION:** Account manager
**SUPPORTS:** Uruguay

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GO AND SEE URUGUAY PLAY IN YOUR OWN CITY OF SYDNEY ?**
It means a lot. It's very rare I even get to see match highlights let alone a full match. So to see the national side here in my own backyard is very exciting.

**HOW DIFFICULT HAS IT BEEN TO CONCENTRATE AT WORK IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE GAME?**
This time around it hasn't been too bad - for the World Cup qualifiers in 2005 it was a different story. I was feeling mixed emotions. I desperately wanted Australia to make the World Cup but not at the expense of Uruguay. I even tried to support the Socceroos but the closer the game came, the Uruguayan pride resurfaced. There was plenty of sledging going on between me and my mates so concentrating on work was very hard, especially on the day of the qualifier. I should have really taken the week off!

**WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PLAY THE MOST?**
Diego Lugano, a tough tackling defender very much in the mould of Paolo Montero. Diego Forlan who can score from anywhere and Carlos Diogo, who has been having a fantastic season in Spain.

A word of warning to the Socceroos: do not let this man Diego Forlan anywhere near the ball

**TELL US ABOUT THE CURRENT URUGUAY SIDE, AND ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES...**
The team is in transition. Alvaro Recoba has been in and out of the team and Paolo Montero has retired. Those two are huge losses. A lot of the locally-based players have been selected for the last few friendlies so it will be interesting to see who plays in Sydney.

**WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST MEMORY OF WATCHING URUGUAY?**
That would be in 1995 when we won the Copa America on home turf by beating Brazil, who were World Champions at the time. It was the perfect send off for "the Prince" Enzo Francescoli, who retired from international football shortly after. Brazil have never beaten us on home soil.

**FAVOURITE URUGUAY SIDE OF ALL TIME?**
The 1950 World Cup-winning team. "The Miracle of the Maracana" as Uruguayans know it. In front of almost 200,000 at the Maracana Stadium, few gave Uruguay any hope especially after we went a goal down in the first half. But in the 66th minute, Juan Schiaffino levelled and in the 79th, Ghiggia stunned the crowd when he smashed in the winner. I don't think anyone will ever be able to beat Brazil in a World Cup Final on their home turf again. That's the Charrua spirit!

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLAYER?**
Paolo Montero. One of the best defenders I have ever seen. A monster!

**WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2005?**
Mixed emotions. Tim Cahill and my brother played football together as kids and our families are good friends, so I really didn't want Tim to miss out on a World Cup. Ideally Uruguay would have finished fourth and never would have had to play Australia. But it wasn't to be and I had to go through two hours of tension. As soon as Aloisi hit the winning penalty I was glad it was over. I was shattered but at the same time I was ecstatic. In the end it was the best thing that has ever happened for football in this country.

## NUMBER CRUNCH

All the numbers you need to know about Australia's opponent

**1900**

THE YEAR THE URUGUAYAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED. IT WAS AFFILIATED TO FIFA IN 1923

**3,419,000**

URUGUAY'S POPULATION

**4**

NUMBER OF WORLD CUP COMPETITIONS URUGUAYAN MIDFIELDER PEDRO ROCHA PLAYED IN (1962, '66, '70, '74)

**174,000**

NUMBER OF SPECTATORS WHO SAW URUGUAY BEAT BRAZIL 2-1 IN THE 1950 WORLD CUP FINAL AT THE ESTÁDIO DO MARACANÃ IN RIO. IT'S A WORLD RECORD ATTENDANCE FIGURE THAT STILL STANDS TODAY

**23**

URUGUAY'S FIFA WORLD RANKING

**2**

NUMBER OF TIMES URUGUAY HAS WON THE WORLD CUP. AS OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS URUGUAY HOSTED AND WON THE INAUGURAL COMPETITION IN 1930. THEY WON IT AGAIN IN 1950

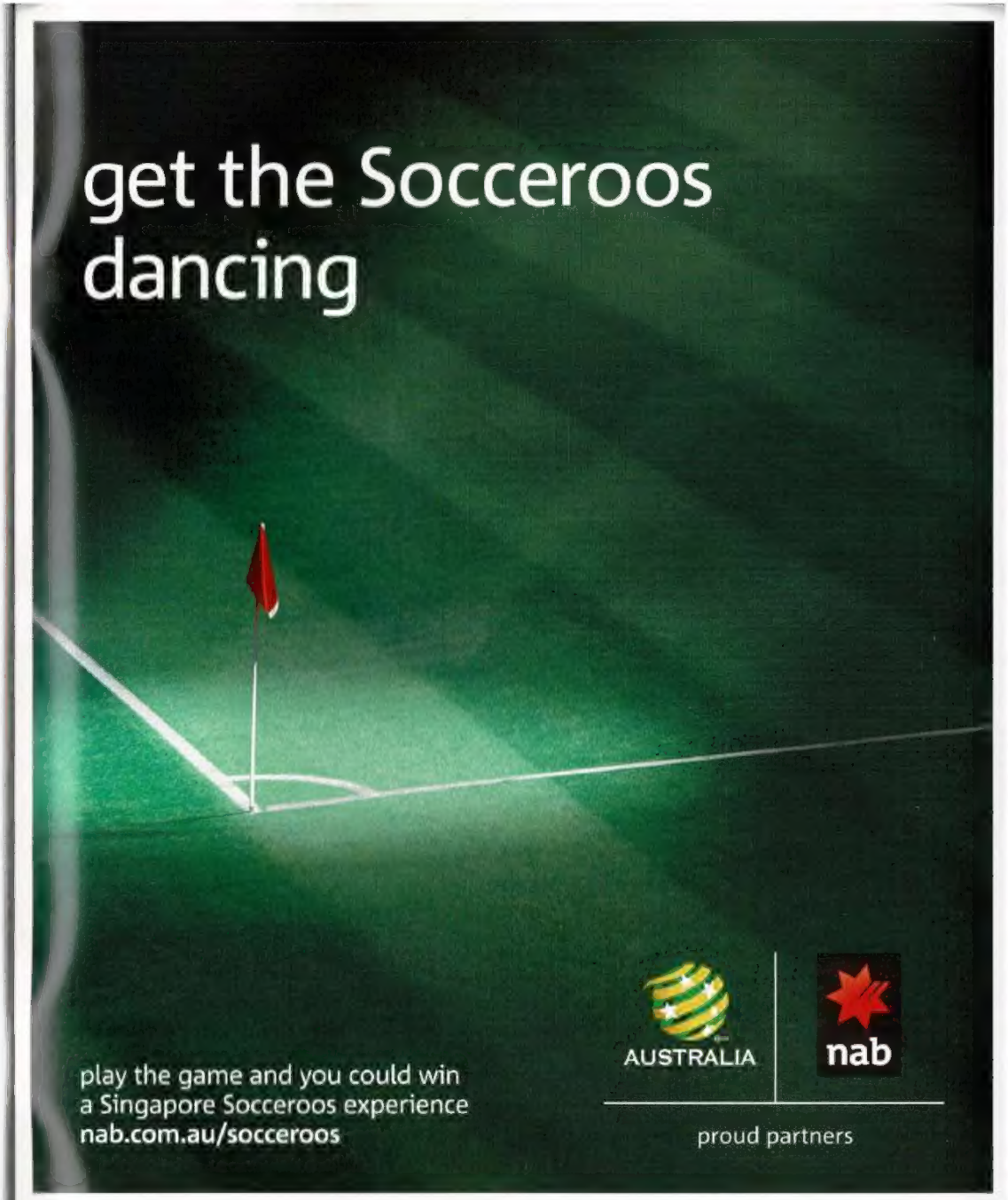
**83,500**

THE CAPACITY OF TELSTRA STADIUM

**2,221,000**

NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS WHO WATCHED THE SOCCEROOS BEAT URUGUAY IN THE CRUCIAL WORLD CUP QUALIFIER IN NOVEMBER 2005






Terms and Conditions: Opens 00:01 on 28/05/07, closes 23:59 on 29/07/07. Major Prize draw 12:00 on 22/06/07 from entries received 00:01 on 28/05/07 to 23:59 on 19/06/07. Minor Prize draw from all entries 12:00 on 01/08/07. Draws at Level 8, 155 George St, Sydney. 10 entries per person permitted, but only 1 prize per household other than SA residents. Major Prize winner's name published on 29/06/07 and Minor Prize winner on 06/08/07 in The Australian. Major Prize includes 2 flights and 2 tickets to the Socceroos Friendlies match in Singapore and signed Socceroos merchandise. Minor Prize includes 2 flights and 2 tickets to the Socceroos Friendlies match in Melbourne and signed Socceroos merchandise. Total prize pool up to $5000 depending on winners' places of departure. See website for full terms and conditions. Promoter National Australia Bank Ltd, Level 34, 500 Bourke St, Melbourne, ABN 12 004 044 937. Authorised under NSW Permit No. LTP507/20861, ACT Permit No. 07/02008, SA Permit No. T07/2047. © 2007 National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 NBB0113

QSP00077, Qantas Airways Limited ABN 16 009 661 901.

AUSTRALIA

In both sport and business, maximising your time is everything. And with our CityFlyer service, our goal is to ensure you make the most of every moment. Qantas CityFlyer, proud supporters of the Qantas Socceroos. **qantas.com**

QANTAS Cityflyer Works for me